

Published 1785  
BECOMING EVENTS  
INTERNATIONAL  
DI MENO  
MON RATTLE  
ELSH SALE VOICE CHOR  
OVEN CONCERT  
IN CONCERT  
0 October 1977 at 7.30  
at Albert Hall  
Office: 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

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# THE TIMES

Rebecca West:  
Lunch with  
Mr Morpurgo, p6

## Lending rate at 5½% after twentieth cut in a year

Minimum lending rate was cut yesterday to 5½ per cent, as widely expected, putting more pressure on the clearing banks to reduce interest charges. Exactly a year ago the ending rate stood at 15 per cent. In contrast, American prime rates have just been raised to 7½ per cent. A further drop in mortgage rates, however, is considered unlikely before the new year.

## Little prospect yet of lower mortgages

By John Whitmore  
and Margaret Stone

Exactly a year after the Bank of England raised interest rates to a record level of 15 per cent, it yesterday reduced the minimum lending rate for the twentieth time since the October 1976 crisis. The cut on this occasion was from 6 per cent to 5½ per cent.

The move will greatly increase the pressure on the clearing banks to make further reductions in their own interest rates. But it seems highly unlikely that the building societies will be prepared to consider further cuts in their rates before the new year.

One leading society, the Abbey National, is proposing not to implement the recent Building Societies Association recommendation that interest rates paid to depositors should be reduced from November 1. Abbey's decision to hold the investment rate will, however, simply only to existing savers and will not affect the present mortgage rate reduction.

The continuing fall in interest rates in Britain has been largely caused by three factors. One has been increased international confidence in the pound and the huge inflow of foreign money swelling liquidity in financial markets.

A second factor has been the relatively sluggish demand from industry to borrow money, and a third, applying chiefly to long-term rates of interest, has been the recent slowing down in the rate of price increases.

In marked contrast, rates of interest in the United States have been steadily rising over the last few weeks as the authorities have moved to tighten monetary growth and check the run on the dollar.

Leading American banks announced fresh rises in their prime rates yesterday, this time from 7½ to 8 per cent, and these rates now stand 1 per cent above the base rates of leading British banks.

Similarly, the United States Government is now having to pay about 11 per cent more for short-term treasury bill finance than the British Government.

How much further British interest rates have to fall remains a matter of conjecture, although most banks and stockbrokers feel that short-term rates must be very close to the bottom.

A great deal is going to depend on how long it is before overseas investors feel that the dollar is stabilising, the value of the pound is improving, and the size of the stimulus Mr Healey proposes for the economy next month.

Abbey National's decision to hold the investment rate for existing savers at 6½ per cent (10.15 per cent gross) instead of dropping it to 6 per cent on November 1, yesterday caused flutters within the building society movement.

Early indications that some societies might follow Abbey's example seem premature. Most, however, will be awaiting with some urgency the outcome of next Thursday's meeting of the Building Societies Association when the issue is to be discussed.

Mr Ralph Stow, chairman of the Association, said last night that there was "no sign of any change of the BSA breaking up" as a result of Abbey's decision to step out of line.

However, it is "in fact" the first time a major rift has occurred among the leading societies, he said.

It was also, he admitted, something of a holding operation and the rate structure would be under continuous review. "It may be a different ball game in January," he said.



Last night: The Labour Party conference ended in traditional style yesterday as delegates, led by the party chairman, Miss Joan Lester, MP for Eton and Slough, linked arms to sing "Auld Lang Syne" (Hugh Noyes writes from Brighton). And fittingly, the unilateral disarmament was allowed their statutory fling before being solidly defeated in their annual attempt to leave the Government without a credible defence policy. After their successes in other years with similar resolutions, the decision to remit the motion to the national executive committee was

mildly surprising even if interpreted as a burst of prelection sanity. But supporters of the motion somewhat overplayed their hand by going farther than the usual demand that Polaris bases be closed and the manufacture of nuclear weapons ended. This time Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, called on the Government not only to close all British and American bases, but also to end any defence policy based on the use of nuclear weapons by Britain or its allies. That was too strong even for a Labour

Party conference. Even so, only one speaker—other than Mr Brian Stanley—winding-up for the NEC—gave a warning against the motion. Indeed, one of the best jokes of the week much enjoyed by delegates, came when Miss Lester, after calling in quick succession such pillars of unilateralism as Lord Brockway, Lord Noel-Baker and Mr Stanley Newens, MP for Havlow, answered a protest calling for a balanced debate by pleading: "How do I know what they are going to say?" One splendid young lady, Miss Cynthia Roberts, who had actually visited Russia, asked

delegates how anyone could think that a nation such as the USSR, which was rebuilding its industry and restoring its art treasures so effectively, could ever contemplate war. "What about human rights?" a lone voice shouted from the floor, but Miss Roberts seemed unconvinced. Mr Buckton, speaking with emotion as he opened the debate, told delegates he would feel much safer if Mr Mulley, the Secretary of State for Defence, was in another conference hall trying to get the final act of the agreement implemented, rather than "sitting at home on his

bomb." Wiser voices prevailed, however. While Mr Mulley maintained a low profile, Mr Stanley was left to redress the balance. He pointed out that with President Carter giving new hope for a genuine international solution there was no line to retreat into an isolationist position. That would be a setback for multilateral disarmament, on which the world's hopes were pinned. The days when Britain could order her allies about had gone. Now, could Britain stand alone in the hope that it should be unharmed if war broke out.

Conference report, page 3

## Tories 'are financially ready for an election'

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

On the day that the dispute over landings by Concorde finally reached the United States Supreme Court, British Airways flew a scheduled Concorde service to Bahrain yesterday without any passengers on board.

A spokesman for the airline said it had not sold any tickets because it was a new schedule and the public was not yet aware of it. After operating a week for nearly a year, British Airways had reintroduced a twice-weekly service.

The official said: "We never expected the Concorde Bahrain service to make much money. It is hoped that the service will be extended to Melbourne early next year, which puts a different angle on the whole thing. The service must be evaluated as a whole."

Concorde normally operate to Bahrain with 47 per cent of the seats filled. Sixty-five per cent of the passengers are travelling on business.

The flight cost British Airways £11,000 in fuel and landing charges alone. The successful Washington service usually turns a 60 per cent profit.

Yesterday's flight left Heathrow more than two hours late and did not park at an airport passenger stand. "There was no need, because there were no passengers," the spokesman said.

"We have the crews, and they have to have route experience. And, because it is a scheduled service, Concorde had to fly today to pick up passengers for the return journey."

Our Washington Correspondent writes: The Concorde case reached the Supreme Court at

## Concorde flight leaves with no passengers

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## 'No hunger strike by Biko' paper claims

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Oct 7

Mr Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader who died while in police detention last month, showed no signs of a hunger strike or dehydration, according to an investigation carried out by the Rand Daily Mail and published on the paper's front page today.

The paper claimed that Mr Biko was in fact overweight when he died and that he was known to have drunk some water only four days before he died. It added that its investigation also supported earlier reports that Mr Biko was found to have extensive brain damage and severe bruising at the time of his death.

During its investigation the paper's reporters interviewed the doctors who examined Mr Biko while he was in detention, first in Port Elizabeth and then in Pretoria.

The paper makes public for the first time the names of these doctors. They are Dr Ivor Laug, the District Surgeon in Port Elizabeth; Dr Benjamin Tucker, the Chief District Surgeon in Pretoria; and Dr Colin Hersch, a specialist physician.

Publication of the paper's investigation brought a swift response from Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice and Police, who immediately issued a statement from the South African Press Council.

The paper stated that its investigation had contradicted a statement made by the minister after Mr Biko's death that Mr Biko had been on a hunger strike.

The results of an autopsy into Mr Biko's death are due to be made public next week.

## Police ready to meet rally trouble today

From Peter Evans  
and John Chatter  
Manchester

The Manchester area is prepared to meet the threat of disorder today from left and right-wing extremists. Greater Manchester's 6,500 police, who have been put on the alert by Mr James Anderson, the Chief Constable, will be assisted by officers from nine other forces.

In Hyde, where a march planned by the National Front has been banned under the Public Order Act, shopkeepers fearing riots yesterday boarded up their shops. Mr Martin Webster, the Franks' national activists' organizer, plans to walk by himself today over part of the banned route as a protest.

The Franks' leaders have promised their supporters in Greater Manchester to hold a rally within the county, which could mean anywhere between Altrincham and Wigan.

The Franks, which had not disclosed its final plans last night, said earlier yesterday that reporters would be taken from a rendezvous in the city centre to an "activity" in an unnamed location. Supporters would be travelling there in coaches, an official said.

The Socialist Workers' Party said yesterday that it had infiltrated the Franks' organization and would know early today where the "activity" was being held. Mr James Nichol, national secretary of the party, said they would not play cowboys and Indians chasing the Franks all over Manchester, but any "activity" would be opposed by sheer weight of numbers.

The SWP expects to have about 5,000 supporters today in Stockport, though at one time it was an alternative venue for the Franks' march. It says that it is not looking for a confrontation with police.

It was disclosed yesterday that Mr Anderson had told officials of Stockport council that there was no indication that the Franks would be holding its demonstration in Stockport today. Mr Anderson said yesterday:

"The situation is still very fluid and we still do not know what will happen or the scale of any problem that will develop."

Not unnaturally, the people of Greater Manchester, especially in Hyde, were worried, he said. "What I would ask is that if people see anything, anywhere, they should keep out of it. I ask them not to get involved, even to the extent of trying to satisfy their natural curiosity. Leave it to the police."

There might be some who doubted the resolve and capacity of the police to maintain law and order and others who wished to undermine their morale and sense of duty. "Let no one be under any misapprehension. The police will not be dissuaded from their task or intimidated in any way, and the public have my confident assurance that law and order will prevail," he said.

Stockport council agreed unanimously yesterday that if the police applied to the council for a ban under the Public Order Act the chief executive, Mr Arthur Wilson, should be allowed to make an order after consulting the mayor and council leaders. Such a ban would have been confirmed by the Home Secretary.

But the council decided not to ask Mr Anderson to apply to it for a ban on processions. There was criticism of the inadequacies of the Public Order Act, springing from indignation that a town could be "held to ransom" by those out for mischief. Councillor John Howe, the Conservative leader, said there should be a requirement for organizers of a demonstration to give notice of it to the police.

Those who are not obliged to do so under the Act, although in practice a warning is generally given. Police can act against demonstrators if they obstruct pavements and refuse to commit other offences.

The Act was also criticized yesterday's meeting for being unselective; a ban in an area would apply to harmless as well as potentially harmful activity.

## Supermarket bans two coffee brands

By Hugh Clayton

Tesco opened a supermarket campaign yesterday to force down the price of instant coffee. The company said it would stock no more Nescafé and Maxwell House coffee until prices were cut. These best-selling brands in Britain have all but disappeared from the 720 Tesco supermarkets.

Miss Daisy Hyams, Tesco's buying director, said: "The price of coffee to the manufacturers has dropped by about half and we feel that should be reflected in retail sales."

Tesco supermarket could sell Brooke Bond coffee at 22.5p for a 100g tin, its "own-label" brand at £1.15. If it bought Nescafé and Maxwell House, at the new prices it would have had to charge £1.39 for four ounces.

The reluctance of supermarket groups to buy highly priced coffee reflects resentment that a Government curb on their coffee profits does not apply to manufacturers. "Producers who have too much stock on their hands at the high price should be prepared to sell at less profit," Miss Hyams said.

The Nescafé Company, which makes Nescafé, said changes in prices of coffee always came long after the changes in raw coffee rates that caused them. General Foods, makers of Maxwell House, said a delay in buying by supermarkets would merely postpone the point at which manufacturers could cut prices.

Kessel, West Germany, Oct 7—Vandals throwing acid today badly damaged Rembrandt's "Jacob's Blessing", a self-portrait by him, and two paintings by his students Willem Drost and Nicolaus Laes. The motive is unknown.

Police said that two men had aroused suspicion in the public gallery at Wilhelmshoehe Palace just before employees discovered the attack—the sixth of its kind in West German galleries since March—AP.

## Maryland state governor jailed

Governor Mandel of Maryland was sentenced to four years' imprisonment yesterday for mail fraud and racketeering. Mr Mandel, who succeeded Mr Spiro Agnew as Maryland's Governor, was convicted of accepting gifts and property worth £200,000 in return for using his office to secure a holding of his five codefendants. His conviction resulted from the same investigation of Maryland corruption that forced Vice-President Agnew to resign in 1973.

Hospital protest urged  
Hospital staffs in London are being urged by officials of the National Union of Public Employees to take protest action next week against the sudden transfer of elderly patients from Hounslow hospital on Thursday. Hounslow staff had been staging a work-in.

New Basque murder  
A taxi-driver, believed to be a police informer, was shot dead in the Basque region of Spain, just as final agreement was reached in discussions in Madrid on a new draft law on amnesty for political offenders.

Jenkins defence warning  
Mr Roy Jenkins, has warned Europe that its military defences may be gravely weakened if the EEC fails to develop greater economic cohesion. He was firing an opening shot in his campaign for EEC progress towards economic and monetary union.

Marsh-Floyd final  
Graham Marsh and Raymond Floyd meet in the final of the world match-play golf championship on shipbuilding, from Admiral Sir Anthony Gifford, and on the air dispute, from Captain R. W. Pullan.

Leading articles: Mrs Gandhi and Mr Bhutto; Dr Owen's optimism; The Labour Party and Euro-socialism.

Arts, page 9  
Sheridan Morley talks to Leslie Caron; Irving Wardle on I Love My Wife; Ned Chaillet on Eve at the Oxford Playhouse.

Sport, pages 15-16  
Motor racing: Linda refuses to race in Canada; British driver badly injured in practice; Racing: John de Coombe fancied for Grand Critérium at Longchamp.

## Soviet constitution not 'stage prop'

The Supreme Soviet unanimously voted a new constitution into law and elected Mr Vasily Kuznetsov, aged 76, as the new Soviet Vice-President. President Brezhnev told the Supreme Soviet that the new constitution was not a 'stage prop'.

Easier divorce urged  
Sir George Baker, President of the Family Division of the High Court, said that a husband or wife should be able to obtain a divorce after only one year's separation, even if the other spouse did not consent.

Spending power drops  
Personal disposable income, after tax and allowing for inflation, fell to its lowest for four years in the second quarter of this year, according to Central Office of Information figures. Spending fell by 1 per cent and the proportion of income saved by 0.9 per cent.

TV insanity plea fails  
Ronny Zamora, aged 15, was found guilty in Miami of murdering an elderly woman, although his lawyers pleaded that violence he had seen on television had made him insane. He will be sentenced on November 7. An appeal is planned.

Crash inquiry: Rail collision was caused by a wiring mistake, inquiry is told.  
Artificial shoulder: Research in Manchester has almost perfected an artificial metal shoulder joint to help sufferers from arthritis.

Washington: President Carter blames oil lobby for the collapse of his attempts to implement his energy policy.  
Salisbury: Rhodesian regime issues a decree banning publicity for people deported from the country.

Panel censure: The Panel on Takeovers and Mergers has censured a Portfolio Management director for buying shares in Ultra Electronic knowing a bid was expected.

Football: Extra burden on international players.  
Business News, pages 17-21  
Stock markets: Equities ended the week quietly and the FT index closed 1.5 down at 517.2, a drop of 3.5 on the week.  
Personal investment and finance: Margaret Stone on issues raised by "personalized" bonds; Problems arising when tax bills are disputed are discussed by Vera Di Palma; Ronald Pullen looks at the banks' interest rates for personal loans.

## Mr Packer's cricket series parasitic, QC alleges

By John Hennessy  
Sports Editor

Mr Kerry Packer's forthcoming series of cricket matches in Australia were described by Mr Michael Kempster, QC, in the High Court yesterday as "essentially parasitic in its nature."

Mr Kempster



## HOME NEWS

## Hospital staffs urged to protest at elderly patients' sudden move

By a Staff Reporter

One hundred thousand members of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) in London were last night urged by union officials to demonstrate next week in protest at developments at Hounslow hospital. On Thursday the local health authority reacted to a staff work-in there by suddenly removing the last 21 elderly patients.

As the Department of Health yesterday asked Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Area Health Authority for a report on the transfer of the patients, there were calls for industrial action in other London hospitals, and a resolution calling for an inquiry is to be put before the south-east regional council of the TUC today.

The extent of industrial action is likely to be decided this weekend, but yesterday 200 staff at Hounslow Hospital, after meeting for more than an hour, said they would strike for half a day and hold another meeting next week.

Mr William Geddes, the Nupe chairman of the hospital's shop stewards' committee, said the general secretaries of all the unions represented were being urged to call an official strike throughout London hospitals on Monday. Union leaders from seven hospitals also met at Hammersmith.

Mr Ronald Keating, Nupe's assistant general secretary, said a telegram had been sent urging Mr Ronalds, Secretary of State for Social Services, to inspect it, because the two wards cleared of patients looked "like a battlefield".

Mr Harold Wild, the union's London organizer, last night sent a circular calling on his members to demonstrate at a meeting of the health authority on Wednesday when the future of the hospital will be discussed again.

Mr Wild said there was considerable anger over the authority's action and he expected to hear from branches on protest action over the weekend. If there were calls for industrial action, Mr Wild said, he would ask the union's executive to support them.

Work-in at Hounslow hospital began over a month ago after the health authority announced that it would be closed because of the need for economies.

On Thursday evening, when health authority officials said there were still 17 women and four men receiving treatment in

two wards. The youngest patient was 59 and the oldest 93.

Some were left waiting in the hospital's lobby on a cold, wet afternoon. Others, bewildered, watched as their beds were dismantled by workmen and their personal belongings swept into plastic bags.

The staff say the transfer was done by officials and porters. Afterwards the two wards were cluttered with debris, including bottles of urine. It is claimed that one male patient had been complaining of chest pains only 30 minutes before the transfer to the West Middlesex hospital.

A health authority official said yesterday that the move had been made after consultation with consultants at the West Middlesex hospital. He was responsible for the Hounslow patients. No warning had been given to Hounslow staff because it was feared they might try to thwart the move.

The official denied there had been no medical staff on duty during the move. He said ambulances were used for stretchers and a minibus took patients in wheelchairs or who could walk.

Inquiry demanded: Trade unions representing 2,400 staff at the new E12m Barnsley district General Hospital are to ask the Trent Regional Health Authority to investigate the running of the hospital and how money allocated for it has been spent (Ronald Kershaw writes).

It is claimed that the 300-bed building has only half its possible complement of patients and that auxiliary staff are overworked.

Senior surgeons at the hospital have alleged that operating theatres were inadequately equipped, that there were shortages of instruments while fitted carpets were to be found in corridors and money was earmarked for landscape gardening. The Barnsley Area Health Authority has denied forgetting to order instruments.

The Trent regional authority said last night: "We have noted what the Barnsley Area Health Authority said in their statement and we support what they have said. If they require our assistance we will give it."

## Search for monster

An Italian diving team is going to Scotland next week in search of the Loch Ness monster. They hope to find it before the Japanese and American teams due at the lake about the same time.

## Reports on pill risk are endorsed in part

By Peter Godfrey

Women who are over 35, smoke and have been taking the contraceptive pill for five years or more should consider using an alternative method of contraception, the Family Planning Association said yesterday. But the association advised women not to become unnecessarily alarmed and not to stop taking the pill without consulting a doctor.

Commenting on two reports, published in *The Lancet* yesterday which suggest that older women taking oral contraceptives are more prone than others to heart disease, the association agreed with the Government's Committee on Safety of Medicines that there was no need to change existing warnings provided with the prescription of oral contraceptives, except to emphasize the increased health risk for women aged over 35, especially cigarette smokers.

The two newly published reports confirm and extend findings published last year concerning heart attacks and the pill. Both studies commenced in 1968, when the pills in use contained higher doses of oestrogen, most of which are now on medium or low-dose pills, which the FPA recommends and prefers.

Manufacturers of contraceptive pills were guarded in their response to the reports because of those developments. "It is very difficult to relate the findings of the studies to oral contraceptives in use today, most of which have reduced their oestrogen dose by 40 per cent," Mr William Crothers, marketing director of Shearings Chemicals, said.

Oral contraceptives with a low oestrogen content were introduced in 1973, and Shearings is conducting research into further reducing the dosage without jeopardizing the pill's reliability.

Wyeth Laboratories, another large manufacturer, said: "The report is obsolete. It is of scientific interest, but of no current value to women taking the pill."

According to Family Planning Association statistics, 46.4 per cent of the 3,200 women in Britain who use oral contraceptives take pills with an oestrogen content of less than 50 microgrammes, and less than 1 per cent take high dosage pills. The statistics estimate that four-fifths of women on the pill are aged under 30.

## By-ways of government, 2: Colonial Lighthouse Service

## Two remaining flashes of Britain's imperial glory

By Stewart Tendler

The Empire is gone. The Raj has ended in India, the settler is home from Africa and the air is filled with a dozen new national anthems. But all is not completely lost and the chapter on Britain's imperial adventures cannot be closed just yet.

One paragraph, one footnote, still has to be completed. One hundred and forty years after the first lighthouse was built in the Bahamas, the Colonial Lighthouse Service is still functioning, running two lighthouses from the marine division of the Department of Trade in High Holborn.

Thousands of miles away, on Sombro Island, near Anguilla, in the Caribbean Sea, the keepers still wear the cap badge of the Imperial Lighthouse Service, the title in better days, when they turned out in dress uniforms to greet official visitors.

At Cape Pembroke, in the Falkland Islands, things have been so quiet for so long that

there are no reports in the division's file on the lighthouse there.

The first of the service's lighthouses—there were to be 17 in its heyday—was founded in the Bahamas in 1836, to protect ships from local wreckers who guided vessels on to the rocks with false lights. On several occasions the wreckers attempted to destroy the official lights, but eventually 10 were established on the islands.

Another four were erected in Ceylon, and one was placed off the Maldiv Islands, at the southern tip of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). The service was staffed by retired naval officers, who superintended local keepers.

In the West Indies immaculate sloops and schooners were used to service the remote lighthouses. As young men about to begin their careers in India neared their destinations on the P and O steamers they would see the working lights of Minicoy.

That was in fact the first station to be surrendered by

the service, when the Indian Government was given the lighthouse in 1956. But it took some time to persuade the new governments of Sri Lanka and the Bahamas to take over the lighthouses in their countries.

They were not very keen, although Britain wanted to give them the lighthouses free of charge. It is said they were finally persuaded by a shrewd civil servant who appealed to national pride by pointing out that it would not do for them to appear to be unable to run their lighthouses.

In 1973 the Bahamas took over Great Isaac Lighthouse, Elbow Cay, and the others with their British names. A year later Sri Lanka agreed to run the four off its coast.

But there was no one around to take over the service's two remaining lighthouses and at present there is still no sign of anyone coming forward. The two lights are on trade routes and perform a valuable service, and no one has suggested that they should be shut down.

The annual cost is about £100,000, still drawn from the general lighthouse fund. Every time a ship arrives at a British port part of the lighthouse dues go to those far-off lights.

Cape Pembroke is on one of the main islands of the Falkland group, and the administration and recruiting of staff are done locally. The principal keeper receives a salary of £2,500 a year and the full complement of the lighthouse is three keepers and one reserve.

First erected in 1855, the lighthouse was rebuilt in 1965 and has a troubled London very little since.

Sombro, built in 1868, is a lighthouse and an accommodation block stand on a bleak rock out of sight of land. Every two weeks the Warspite, a motorized schooner, brings fresh food and a relief keeper. The lighthouse is usually manned by three keepers and a reserve principal keeper receives £1,500 a year and London has recently been con-

cerned by a suggestion from the keepers that they should be paid more, giving them parity with the Anguilla police force.

Although there is very little to do on the rock, the keepers have refused to consider painting the red steel frame of the lighthouse, even though they were offered financial inducements. Instead they have been campaigning for a television set, which they will get shortly, provided someone can work out how it can be delivered safely.

The rock can be reached only by a sometimes perilous climb up a ladder from the sea. In 1962 the lighthouse had to be rebuilt after a hurricane smashed the tower.

When and if the lighthouses are finally given away it will still not be the end of the service. There are 69 men receiving pensions for their days among the "Colonial Lights".

Next: National Fire Service

## Rail collision caused by wiring mistake

A wiring mistake which reversed rail signals was the cause of a collision in which two train drivers died, Major Charles Rose, a Department of Transport inspector, said yesterday at the end of the inquiry into the accident at Farley junction, Leeds, last month.

Witnesses told the inquiry yesterday that because of a threatened power cut a standby telephone had been installed in a box to be put in with it, and because that was incorrectly wired electrical signals from the signal box were reversed.

The driver of the Pennine Liverpool-Hull train, Mr Ronald Watson, aged 51, of Wheelwright Close, Kirkstall, Leeds,

died in his cab. Mr Kenneth Shore, aged 48, of Heights Way, Armley, Leeds, driver of the York-Shrewsbury mail train, died in hospital.

Mr Ronald Mitchell, a senior technician, told the inquiry that he had been one of three men called out to fix the rectifier in a track-side cabinet. He had been about to start testing the equipment when he received a telephone call from the signal box to say that there had been an accident at Farley. He denied that he had called the signal box to tell them that the job was finished and that they could resume traffic.

Mr Mitchell agreed that the wiring of the rectifier had been incorrectly done.

## Tarling plea for Lords

The House of Lords will be asked, next week, to hear appeals over the extradition to Singapore of Mr Richard Tarling, the former chairman of the Haw Par Brothers International. In July the Queen's Bench Divisional Court ordered him to be extradited to face trial on six charges relating to the affairs of Haw Par and Melbourne United.

The court cleared Mr Tarling on nine more serious charges concerning the operations of the Haw Par Group and

Spyder Securities and quashed an extradition order made by the Metropolitan Chief Magistrate on those charges.

The House of Lords will be asked on October 13 to grant Mr Tarling leave to appeal and to give the Singapore Government permission to bring a cross-appeal against the second part of the Divisional Court's ruling.

In the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Nield extended the suspension of the extradition order and continued Mr Tarling's bail.

## Replacement shoulder joint nearly perfected

From John Chartres, Manchester

Experiments with the production of an artificial shoulder joint to help sufferers from arthritis have reached an advanced stage in Manchester.

Combined work by orthopaedic surgeons, led by a consultant at James Spence Hospital, and engineers at Manchester University's Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) is being concentrated on perfecting an all-metal bearing joint.

The replacement of arthritic hip joints with plastic bearings, an operation which is carried out in Manchester, is widely practised, but the replacement of shoulder joints has proved more difficult. The North Western Regional Health Authority said yesterday.

Combined plastic and metal shoulder joints had not been durable and metal-to-metal joints were more likely to be a permanent solution. Research at the applied mechanics division at UMIST involves swinging a simulated arm, about 10 lb, through 10,000 times a day in a test rig which can also reproduce the stresses on the human arm carrying heavy loads.

## Call for inquiry into alleged RUC brutality

From Christopher Walker

The Government is facing mounting pressure to set up an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality in Ulster, similar to that announced yesterday in the Irish Republic.

A call for an investigation of fresh allegations of systematic ill treatment of suspects by the Royal Ulster Constabulary was made by Mr Gerard Fitz, MP and leader of the local Democratic Unionist Party, after the disclosure in *The Times* that members of the Northern Ireland branch of the Police Surgeons' Association had convened an emergency meeting to discuss concern at interrogation techniques being used in RUC holding centres.

The meeting of the seven strong committee of the association, which represents 42 doctors employed by the Northern Ireland police authority, was held in private last night.

Before it began an official of the committee, which consists of Roman Catholic and Protestant doctors and has no political affiliations, stated: "We have seen things we are not at all happy with. The police authority is familiar with our views on certain matters. We now plan to discuss them as a group with the chief constable, Mr Kenneth Newman."

Commenting on the doctors' decision to hold a meeting, Mr Fitz said: "This matter will be raised in Parliament and if necessary taken to Strasbourg on behalf of those who have already been savagely beaten while in custody. Now that the doctors are getting together to voice their concern there can no longer be any official denial that something serious is going on."

Speaking from London, Mr Fitz added: "There is no question of the SDLP acting in support of terrorists on this matter. We are merely asking

that the Government should intervene to ensure the preservation of human rights in Northern Ireland."

The decision of the police surgeons to take independent action about the brutality allegations is understood to have caused concern among senior RUC officers. The RUC refused to comment beyond stating: "They have the right to do what they think is correct, but we have not been officially notified about their meeting."

There is a growing feeling in political circles in Northern Ireland that the long running undercurrent of allegations is reaching the point where some action, perhaps repeated official denials, will have to be taken.

The call for an independent judicial inquiry was taken up in a leading article published yesterday in the *Belfast Telegraph*. A senior member of the Alliance Party said: "The fact that the doctors are involved has put the allegations on to

quite a different plane. We shall be making a statement within a few days."

The decision by the Irish Government to set up its inquiry comes after a detailed and damaging report by members of Amnesty International and several articles in *The Irish Times* alleging the existence of a "heavy gang" within the police force. The Amnesty report was presented to the Irish Cabinet in August.

Mr Collins, Minister for Justice, said yesterday that it would be conducted by Judge Barra O'Brien, a former president of the Irish Circuit Court. Mr Ruairi Roberts, general secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and Mr Patrick Malone, a former police commissioner, they will not have judicial powers.

The commission has been asked to compile a private report for the Government on the treatment of suspects in police custody over the past two years.

## Man tells court of 'confession or death' threat

Mr Larry John Titmus, aged 26, a former record salesman, said at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday that he thought he was going to be murdered after being threatened with torture and death unless he confessed to a crime he had not committed.

Mr Titmus, of Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link, Hereford, and Worcester, said that his former area sales manager kidnapped him, tied him to a bed and threatened to put a hot iron on his back.

He was forced to write letters to his wife and Mr Arnold Baker, the managing director of his company, Record Merchandisers, of Hayes, Middlesex, falsely confessing that he stole £3,500 of records.

Clifford George Jones, aged 36, former area sales manager of Colchester Avenue, Cardiff, was at the time on remand accused of stealing the records. Mr Titmus said he was allowed to go to the lavatory with a rope tied round his neck "like a dog lead", which Mr Jones kept hold of.

Mr Jones has pleaded guilty to kidnapping and imprisoning Mr Titmus for three days and to attempting to pervert the course of justice. He has pleaded not guilty to stealing records valued at more than £12,000. His half-sister, Mrs Barbara Ann Evans, aged 23, of Glen Collen, Penryn, Cardiff, has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to kidnap and imprisoning Mr Titmus.

Mr Titmus said that later he was put in the boot of a car, but was not in a proper physical or mental condition to try to escape.

The trial continues on Monday.

## National Front leader fails to attend court

Mr John Tyndall, leader of the National Front, failed to arrive at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday to give evidence at the trial of three men accused of assaulting him.

Two of the accused, David Simon, aged 29, an unemployed teacher, and Alan Weir, were cleared of assaulting Mr Tyndall, of Comaught Road, Teddington, Middlesex, during the demonstration in the Gayfield square district of the city. Each was fined £20 on a breach of the peace charge.

Mr Weir, aged 21, a student, changed his plea halfway through his trial and admitted committing a breach of the peace. The Crown accepted his plea of not guilty to assaulting Mr Tyndall by throwing filth at him.

A third man accused of a breach of the peace, Calum Macrae, aged 24, was found guilty and was also fined £20. Mr Macrae, an unemployed teacher who works as a street cleaner, said he was charged solely because the police wanted to make three or four arrests.

## Former editor's appeal over Rippon picture

A duty editor with BBC Television News appealed to an industrial tribunal in London yesterday against his dismissal for taking photographs of Miss Angela Rippon dancing.

The photographs appeared later in the *Daily Mirror*. Mr Ken Brunnington, aged 50, of Lloyds Place, Blackheath, London, claimed unfair dismissal from his £7,500-a-year post.

The videotape showed Miss Rippon, the news reader, dancing on the Morecambe and Bournemouth show. The BBC had forbidden the release

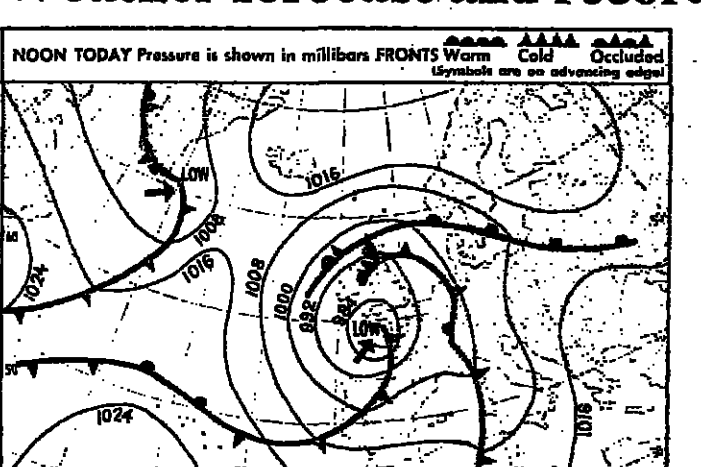
to the press of any advance photograph of Miss Rippon, but a photograph appeared in the *Daily Mirror* on December 21, 1976. Mr Brunnington told the tribunal that he had taken the photographs as a favour for a former colleague who was the editor of the South Devon Times, the newspaper on which Miss Rippon started as a reporter. He did not know the photograph being sent to the *Daily Mirror*.

Mr Thomas Morison, counsel for the BBC, told the tribunal that the BBC feared advance publicity photographs would damage Miss Rippon's reputation for seriousness.

He said a number of possible criminal offences might have been involved, including larceny, conspiracy to break copyright and even corruption.

The former editor of the *South Devon Times*, Mr George Harris, said that after he received the photographs his editorial director decided not to use them. Mr Harris said the photographs as a scrap too good to waste and he sent them to the *Daily Mirror*. He said that the question of money had never been raised with Mr Brunnington. The hearing was adjourned.

## Weather forecast and recordings



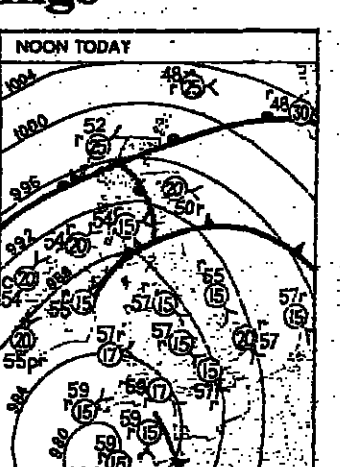
Today		Tomorrow	
Sun rises: 7.13 am	Sun sets: 6.23 pm	Sun rises: 7.14 am	Sun sets: 6.21 pm
Moon sets: 4.15 pm	Moon rises: 1.55 am	Moon sets: 4.43 pm	Moon rises: 3.2 am
New Moon: October 12 to 6.44 am			
Lighting up: 6.52 pm to 6.44 am			
High water: London Bridge, 10.35 am, 5.44 pm (11.19 pm), 5.7m			
(18.5ft), Avonmouth, 3.41 am, 12.7m (13.3ft), Dover, 8.23 am, 5.30 pm (13.3ft), 8.26 pm, 5.4m (12.9ft)			
Hull, 2.42 am, 5.7m (12.8ft), 3.42 pm, 5.8m (12.9ft), Liverpool, 8.30 am, 5.9m (12.8ft), 8.34 pm, 7.6m (25.0ft)			

A depression will move slowly to the SW of Britain with an associated trough across N Scotland.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE and central S England, East Anglia, Midlands: Fog patches early, becoming cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy in places; wind SE, light or moderate; max temp 14°C (57°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy in places; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 14°C (57°F).

E, NV, central N and NE England, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Bright spells after early fog patches, becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain; wind SE, light or moderate; max temp 14°C (57°F).



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## Tories look for local government ideas

By Christopher Warman

The Conservative Party yesterday launched a new "think tank" on local government in the form of a magazine called *Centre Forward*. Its aim is to stimulate new ideas, and shadow ministers, including Mr Keith Speed, local government spokesman, declared themselves open to influence on policy from its contents. The party said it intends to pay more attention to local government.

The magazine will look not only at local government but also at the health authorities, water boards, nationalised industries and ad hoc bodies, collectively known as quangos (quasi-autonomous non-governmental organizations).

Mr W. Thornhill, senior lecturer in political theory and institutions at Sheffield University and editor of the magazine, writes in the first issue that the watchwords in local government should be efficiency, effectiveness and

humanity. "In the past these have too easily been sacrificed in the pursuit of doctrinaire policies for their own sake."

The development of local government services had proceeded in an era of growth at such a pace that costs, efficiency and effectiveness had frequently been overwhelmed by the volume of work, he said. "Then serious tendency towards centralization and ever-expanding public services raises question about the ability of the institutions and those who man them, to grapple with the large-scale and complex activities they embrace. So we must examine the structure of the subordinate state institutions and their methods of working, to do what we can to secure improvements in the way they serve the community."

Lady Young, the party's deputy chairman in charge of administration, said it must be of concern that so many people felt alienated from government, whether central or local, and believed their only hope of

being heard was to join a pressure group.

"Public debate and participation in government has been demanded, understandably, but this is the essence of democracy, but it is not always easy to find an effective forum for carrying it out."

The magazine, which is to be published twice a year, is intended to serve as a forum for advanced "and even controversial" ideas. One such controversial idea was struck by Hugh Ross, Opposition housing spokesman, who said that for the fourth year, because of the Rent Act, 1974, many students returning to university had nowhere to live.

The Conservatives had asked the Government to exempt private student accommodation from the Rent Act controls and had been given a written guarantee that that would be done, he said.

Centre Forward (Conservative Local Government Organization, 32 Smith Square, London, SW1 3HH, £1).

## 'Sunday Times' appeals over Slater book ban

The Court of Appeal was asked by *The Sunday Times* yesterday to lift a ban on publication of extracts from a book about the Slater Walker financial empire.

The book, *Slater Walker*, by Christopher Slater, a former journalist, is to be published on Thursday, the same day as Mr James Slater's memoirs, *Return to Go*, are due to appear. *The Sunday Times* wants to publish five extracts from Mr Slater's book, probably starting tomorrow week.

A ban on publication of the book and extracts from it was imposed by a High Court judge in March last year, on an application by Mr Slater and his co-founder of Slater Walker Securities, Mr Peter Walker, a former Conservative Minister. Later a judge lifted the ban on publication of the book.

Mr Slater and Mr Walker alleged that Mr Raw had broken a contract under which they agreed to cooperate with him on condition that they were given an opportunity to explain any facts, opinions, quotations or criticisms.

Mr Gerald Levy, for Mr Slater and Mr Walker, told Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Evershed that the articles, written by Mr Anthony Bambridge, using Mr Raw's material, did not contain a single word that was not in the book.

Lord Denning asked Mr Levy: "The book is being published on Thursday; what on earth are the plaintiffs objecting to the articles for?"

Mr Levy replied: "Because they think more people will read *The Sunday Times* than read the book."

Mr David Hirst, QC, for the plaintiffs, said the substance of their case was that publication was to be in *The Observer*



## HOME NEWS

## Divorce after only a year's separation suggested by judge

From Marcel Berlins  
Legal Correspondent  
Harrington

A husband or wife should be able to obtain a divorce after only one year's separation, even if the other spouse does not want it, Sir George Baker, President of the Family Division of the High Court, suggested yesterday.

He made his call for simpler divorce laws at the annual conference of the Law Society at Harrogate, citing the Australian law as a model.

There, he said, all that was needed to prove that a marriage had broken down irretrievably was one year's separation. That was logical, attractive, administratively sensible, and for Britain inevitable.

It would solve many difficulties for the courts, and would tend to take the emphasis further away from cases in which parties complained about each other's behaviour, which caused the divorce court far more trouble than anything else.

Under the present English law, although irretrievable breakdown of marriage is the only ground for divorce, it can be proved in five ways: two years' separation with both parties consenting, five years' separation if there is no consent, adultery, desertion, and unreasonable behaviour.

Sir George said later that he suspected some divorces were rigged. Parties wanting to get divorced had to wait for two years to get a divorce on "evidence" of adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

Adopting the Australian system would end the rigged "quick" divorce, he explained. It would put an end to all contested divorces except where there was a dispute about whether there had been a year's separation. There would be no

need to have to prove adultery or have disputes about behaviour.

Sir George said at the conference that he would not, however, do away with the law that a divorce petition could not normally be brought within three years from the date of marriage, except by special leave.

Earlier in his speech he had expressed concern at the combination of a rising divorce rate and a falling marriage rate. The ratio was approaching one divorce for only two weddings, compared with the ratio in the mid-1960s of one divorce to seven or eight marriages. We viewed with horror the California ratio of one-to-three," he said.

In 1970, the last year before the reform of the divorce laws in England and Wales, there were 70,000 divorce petitions. Last year the figure was more than 146,000. During that same period marriages had dropped by 70,000 to 35,000.

Referring to recent publicity about paedophiles, Sir George gave an assurance to parents that judges settling family cases were most careful to be certain that a person with such beliefs or tendencies has no access to any child in the care of the court. Without such an assurance, it would not be surprising if parents took the law into their own hands.

More tolerance: Miss Joan Sullivan, head of counselling at the National Marriage Guidance Council, said she was stunned by the statistics. She thought the cause was easier laws, women's liberation, and a more tolerant attitude.

"At one time divorce was the prerogative of the rich. Poorer people stayed married no matter how miserable they were," she said.

## Councillors 'throwing away school opportunity'

Leaders of two teachers' organizations attacked local authorities last night for failing to provide the money for more teachers and better schools.

Mr Frank Mills, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, accused town hall treasurers of throwing away the best opportunity the nation has had to improve the quality of schools.

Thirty thousand trained teachers were drawing unemployment pay when they could be helping to bring tremendous benefits to schools.

Mr Mills, head of Marshfield Comprehensive School, St Albans, said that parents needed to be made aware that for short-term political expediency elected local authorities were throwing away the best opportunity we ever had to make the greatest simple educational advance in our history.

With a declining school population there was a real chance to improve pupil-teacher ratios and provide greatly enhanced opportunities for far more children to receive individual attention.

Mr Bernard Wakefield, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, joined in the attack. He said there was little evidence that several million pounds that the Government had allocated to local authorities to take on 2,000 extra teachers had been used for that purpose.

The attacks on the authorities came after the disclosure this week that in 1976-77 local education authorities had spent 18m less than they had asked for under rate support grants.

## Seven out of ten think Ford men 'greedy'

By Tim Jones  
Labour Reporter

Amid growing speculation that the Government would not impose sanctions on the Ford Motor Company if it conceded pay rises of more than 10 per cent to its 57,000 workers, an opinion poll published yesterday showed that seven out of 10 people believe the employees are being greedy.

The survey, conducted by the Opinion Research Centre, indicated strong backing for the Government's fight to bring down inflation.

Most of the 1,014 people whose opinions were obtained earlier this week, believed the company should stand firm in the national interest in resisting the unions' claim for 15 per cent on the basic wage and fringe benefit improvements worth another 10 per cent.

Citing the company's profits, the unions contend that their claim is "socially responsible", but the survey showed that most people would consider settlement on their terms as being a failure of the company to put the national interest first.

Public opinion, the survey showed, believes that Ford should stand firm even if that meant a strike, rather than buy peace by breaching the Government pay guidelines.

According to the survey, most people think that Ford workers in recent years have done better than most workers in terms of pay rises and should now settle for about 10 per cent.

Seventy-eight per cent of those asked thought a settlement of more than 10 per cent would have a bad effect on the cost of living. More than 60 per cent thought it would worsen unemployment, and 64 per cent considered it would harm the country's prosperity.

Seventy-eight per cent also thought the workers should back the Government's counter-inflation policy, while 64 per cent thought the company should stand firm on its demand for a strike.

While unions and management prepare for their next meeting on Wednesday, a "personality clash" forced the company to lay off about 1,000 night-shift workers at its Dagenham plant on Thursday.

The cause was a walkout by 48 assembly-plant workers who were protesting against the plan. By this morning the dispute will have caused the loss of production of 1,000 cars, at a sale price of about £3m.

A composite motion calling for an election pledge that Britain would do away with its nuclear arms and close down all its military bases was rejected unanimously by the Labour Party conference at Brighton yesterday.

The motion expressed alarm at the spread of nuclear weapons and at the dangers of the neutron bomb, and demanded that the next general election manifesto should contain explicit pledges that Britain would do away with its nuclear arms and close down all its military bases.

The motion also called for the abolition of the House of Lords, and for the introduction of a new electoral system.

The motion was rejected by a vote of 1,000 to 500. The Labour Party conference at Brighton yesterday.

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## Public house blacking to continue

From Arthur Osman  
Birmingham

An emergency meeting of the committee of the National Association of Licensed Public House Managers is to be held at Wallingford on Monday to decide whether to take further action to stop the blacking of public houses in Birmingham, which is still without beer after 26 months.

The association said that it might try to get its own supplies of beer into the city.

Drayman at Ansell's Brewery, who have refused to deliver because of a dispute with a predecessor of the present manager, met yesterday and decided to continue the blacking.

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## LABOUR CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON



Mr Brian Stanley (left), who opposed unilateral nuclear disarmament, and Mr Stanley Newman, MP for Harlow, who saw Britain as an aircraft carrier for US missiles.

## Unilateral disarmers fail in nuclear debate

Reports by John Winder,  
Bernard Withers, Geoffrey  
Browning and Brian Moore, of  
our Parliamentary Staff.

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## Defeat for platform over banned councillors

By George Clark

Despite the advice of Mrs Lena Jeger, speaking for the party executive, the conference staged a last-minute rebellion yesterday and carried by a large majority a motion demanding legislation to remove the disqualification from holding public office imposed on 21 Clay Cross councillors.

Although Mr Jeger attempted to sway delegates by arguing that the motion, from the North-east Derbyshire Labour Party, was selective and would be executed by other Labour councillors who had refused to carry out the Conservative Housing (Finance) Act, delegates were not impressed.

Pressure for a debate had mounted during the week and when the order of the final day's business was announced yesterday the supporters of the Clay Cross councillors rejected the programme and a debate had to be convened.

Given the difficult task of speaking for the executive, Mrs Jeger found it heavy going and she was several times interrupted by cries of "shame".

Because of their refusal to carry out the law, 10 Clay Cross councillors were disqualified from holding public office for five years and 11 were disqualified indefinitely.

Mr Eric Barker, for the North-east Derbyshire party, and Mr Bernard Dix, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, argued that Labour councillors were encouraged by a decision of the 1972 party conference to refuse to implement the Conservative legislation.

They needed contractual agreements with all leading companies to stimulate the economy to a given extent the companies for their part would guarantee to expand production and investment to a similar degree.

Mr Finnerly said: "I am embarrassed as a trade union official to see the Labour Party speaking for the executive abundantly clear to all of them and must be increasingly clear to the country that the traditional capitalist free market economy did not solve the problems of the people of the world and of Britain."

There was no social contract, Mr Finnerly said. The unions had only accepted the 12-month rule.

Mr Judith Hart (Minister for Overseas Development) speaking for the executive, said it was abundantly clear to all of them and must be increasingly clear to the country that the traditional capitalist free market economy did not solve the problems of the people of the world and of Britain.

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## Government is asked to provide £1,000m a year for National Enterprise Board

A grade union official told the conference in a debate on industrial investment that he had been embarrassed by employers' refusal to invest in the voluntary system was not working and only one had so far been made.

The Government was willing to invest in the voluntary system, but the central issue of the conference had been to bring down the unemployment level to 10 per cent.

Mr Meacher (Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry) said the Government would be pleased to consider creating statutory parish councils where urban district councils had existed.

The composite motion said that the present organization of local government was detrimental to the interests of the people and called for a new local government system.

The motion also called for the abolition of the House of Lords, and for the introduction of a new electoral system.

The motion was rejected by a vote of 1,000 to 500. The Labour Party conference at Brighton yesterday.

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## Police force to get £250,000 for overtime

Stringent financial restrictions on the Thames Valley police are to be eased to enable the undermanned force to tackle a backlog of inquiries and operate with greater flexibility, it was disclosed yesterday.

On the recommendation of the Chief Constable, Mr David Holdsworth, Thames Valley Police Authority has agreed to earmark up to £250,000 for overtime pay for the force.

He pointed out that with the force strength standing at 182 below the establishment of 2,995, there had been a saving in basic pay of £347,000 to date.

## MP's advice to homosexuals

Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, the Labour MP for Northampton, North, advised homosexuals yesterday not to hide away, but to "come out into the open".

Mrs Colquhoun, aged 49, is fighting a move by her constituency party to unseat her, after it emerged that she was a lesbian. She discussed the controversy that surrounds her in the current issue of *Gay News*, the newspaper for homosexuals, and declared: "My sexuality has nothing to do with my ability to do my job as an MP."

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## Chinese refugee saved by ability to learn English

A refugee from Communist China, accused at Dunfermline Sheriff Court yesterday of stabbing two brothers, was told by Sheriff Shiach: "I am going to take the unusual step in an offence such as this of admonishing you because you have worked so hard learning English."

Wei-chan, aged 25, a cook of High Street, Irvine, admitted stabbing Thomas Rennie and Anderson Rennie, of Irvine, with a knife when they ran from a local Chinese restaurant allegedly without paying the bill.

When Mr Chi first appeared in June it was stated that the assault was committed while he had been attacked after he had chased the brothers. Sheriff Shiach deferred sentence until

## Couple die after drinking weed killer

From Our Correspondent  
York

Police are investigating the death of an elderly couple after drinking a weed killer, which is used as a weed killer.

It is believed that the substance was kept in a sherry bottle and that Mrs Grace Walker, aged 75, drank some by mistake. When her husband, Josiah, aged 73, realized what had happened he, too, swallowed some rather than live without her.

## Guards' strike stops West Country trains

A strike by 120 railway guards based on London and the South-east has stopped trains from Paddington last night.

The unofficial strike over rest-day working is the result of the introduction of new rosters.

By late last night some of the trains into Paddington from south Wales, Bristol and Birmingham had been cancelled. Trains from Paddington to Birmingham, Worcester and Weston-super-Mare were also stopped.

## Eire beef undermining prices, farmers say

By Our Agricultural Correspondent  
Farmers said yesterday that beef prices were being undermined by subsidized imports from the Republic of Ireland.

The National Farmers' Union said the subsidy was worth 12½ p a pound. British beef prices are falling so much that a smaller British subsidy sanctioned by the EEC will soon operate.

Opposition to Irish imports is strongest in Wales, where similar protests two years ago led to demonstrations by farmers at ports. Now as then, the opposition is part of the campaign by British farmers to win a devaluation of the "green pound", with which EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling.

## New offer to air control strikers

A new pay offer, within the Government's pay code, has been made to the 850 air traffic control assistants, whose strike is in its sixth week. A decision is expected late next week.

The Civil Aviation Authority, whose refusal to pay a 17 per cent claim caused the strike, refused yesterday to give details of the new offer.

## Work-to-rule by lift men starts

About 750 lift service engineers, members of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, yesterday began a work-to-rule in support of a 130 per cent wage claim.

The union has told the Engineering Employers' Federation that the 10 per cent offer does not even form a basis for further talks, but the employers say their offer would give the engineers another £8 a week.

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## Warning on threat to press freedom

A protest at the "potentially dangerous precedent" of the party's executive in excluding two journalists from the conference was staged yesterday by some colleagues at Westminster Press were on strike was made by Mr David Harris, chief political correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and chairman of the parliamentary lobby journalists.

He made his protest in a speech replying to the customary vote of thanks to the press.

Mr Harris said union solidarity meant a lot, but press freedom meant even more, and those journalists who worked at Westminster Press were on strike was made by Mr David Harris, chief political correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and chairman of the parliamentary lobby journalists.

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## WEST EUROPE

## M Barre opens battle of words with the left

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Oct 7

M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, last night gave up his role of economist-statesman and stepped back on to the national stage to play the part of a knuckl-dragger politician of the hustings. His quick-change act seems to have thrown the critics into confusion, especially those sitting on the left of the House.

Mr Barre made use of a television appearance to make a very political attack on the Union of the Left in general and the Socialist Party in particular.

This led M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, to complain today that the Socialist Party's behaviour was clearly helping M Barre and his Government to remain on stage beyond the next election.

M Marchais, repeating his earlier gibe that the Socialist Party had taken a turn to the right, told a press conference that it was now on course to help President Giscard d'Estaing achieve his long-term objective of turning a "centre left" which would govern France.

"That means," the Communist leader said, "that Francois Mitterrand and the Socialists will carry the heavy responsibility of creating a situation where the forces of capitalism will know victory and the force of the people will know defeat. That would be to frustrate the workers and their families of the essential change that they have been waiting for and which the whole world agreed would be probable a few weeks ago."

Mr Barre, in his televised speech, tore into Mitterrand as "the Prince of Doubletalk". He made it clear that with the election drawing near, he is prepared to leave his previously carefully maintained position of political indifference for a slugging match with the Government's opponents.

Mitterrand, he said, was mistaken. He has chosen a bad economic and political strategy. I throw back at him the slogan that he has used against me: "He excels in error and in failure."

The breakdown of the Union of the Left, he said, was the important and necessary event. It had dissipated a cleverly built and maintained edifice of doubletalk. "We were told there was a Union of the Left and a common programme. We have seen that the union was only a facade and the programme was not common."

"You cannot conduct a strategy of foginess. You cannot eternally fondle the rose in the hand (an allusion to the Socialist Party emblem) and put the hand on the heart in making an appeal to lyricism and to the emotions, combining the considerations of mankind, culture and the ecology."

Mr Barre is to test his electoral appeal at the next elections by standing as a candidate, even though he is not allowed to do so, he would have to give up his seat, assuming he wins it. If he is to remain as Prime Minister.

For all that, he is leading a Government that, if opinion polls are to be believed, is going to be extremely lucky to win the elections. Mr Barre is still refusing to set out his objectives for action for the election campaign.

The majority coalition have put together their manifesto, agreeing the broad principles of continued mutual co-operation. Mr Barre has promised that he will add his own chapter to this, putting forward the Government's programme for the next session if re-elected.

Having now allowed himself to become involved in a political knuckl-dragger cannot be long before he will find it necessary to make that programme known or he will find himself open to the damaging attack that he is prepared to launch his opponents without having any policies of his own.

The Communist Party, which has become increasingly buoyant since the breakdown of talks over the common programme, is this weekend holding a special conference in Lyons to prepare for the elections. The party's opinion poll ratings, recently have never gone above 25 per cent and the delegates met in the hope that they will benefit from the vote of disaffected Socialists.

Their leader, M Jean Lecanuet, said on television last night: "The hour of the Centre has arrived."



Princess Margaret waves goodbye to Venice where she has been on holiday.

## Mr Jenkins sees military danger if EEC countries drift apart

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Oct 7

If the European Community fails to improve its economic cohesion, it may well imperil Western Europe's military defences, Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, said here.

Speaking at a dinner, Mr Jenkins said that if the Community were to fall apart, and national states went their separate ways, the capacity of Europeans to contribute to the common defence would be gravely endangered. The Nato alliance existed before the EEC, but Mr Jenkins doubted whether it could survive a disintegration of the Community.

Mr Jenkins was appealing to member governments to restore the Community on the road to economic and monetary union (EMU). A similar plea was made in a speech today in London by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the former Conservative MP, who is now the Commissioner in charge of the EEC budget.

Taken together the speeches are seen as the first public shot in a campaign by the Commission to challenge the view generally held in EEC capitals that—in Mr Tugendhat's words—"monetary union is a distant possibility towards which the Community cannot begin to make any progress until it masters both inflation and unemployment."

Mr Jenkins said last night: "We must relaunch with a newly defined relevance to the circumstances of the late 1970s the drive towards economic and monetary union. We must find ways of avoiding recourse to the danger of pseudo-solutions of national protectionism to threats to sensitive sectors of the economy."

Under the blueprint for EMU first drawn up in 1970, the EEC was to have moved by 1980 to the introduction of a single common currency and pooling of reserves. This was to have been accompanied by the progressive transfer of control over national monetary, credit and budgetary policies to a centralized Community bodies.

Another suspected political killing occurred in the Basque region just as final agreement was reached here on a new draft law on amnesty for political offenders.

The body of a taxi driver, believed to be a regular police informer, was found with two bullet wounds today outside Herak, near San Sebastian. The Basque separatist organization ETA was suspected of having perpetrated the murder.

In Madrid last night a multiparty parliamentary committee approved the text of a draft law which would wipe the slate clean for most political offenders but would not let ousted military men back into the armed forces.

The compromise Bill, worked out between representatives of the ruling Centre Democratic Union and the opposition, would also exclude members of the mysterious terrorist organization Grapo. Although some debate is expected, the passage of the amnesty proposal is a foregone conclusion.

It will probably come up before the Congress within two weeks, and the only party which opposes it is the right-wing Popular Alliance, headed by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the former Interior Minister.

The exclusions from the benefits of the amnesty, written into the text of the draft, were the result of trading between the Centre Democratic Union and left-wing party representatives.

The ruling party insisted that the military establishment would not stand for a law obliging it to take back ousted officers and soldiers. As a compensation the leftists suggested other exclusions.

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Christie's Rome branch was to start today the auction of the specialized library of Marquis Luigi Medici del Vascello—700 books on hunting, fishing and natural history, worth about £200,000 (\$1,500,000). But it was notified yesterday of a decree ordering its cancellation and describing the library as having "exceptional interest" to preserve the historical integrity of Villa Mandor, a former royal mansion near Turin.

Last spring, Sotheby was forced to call off an auction of paintings, furniture and other items from the Serristori Palace in Florence when a decree banned it on the grounds that the sale would spoil the integrity of the Renaissance palace—AP.

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## OVERSEAS

## President Carter blames oil lobby for the demolition of his energy policy by Congress

From Patrick Broom  
Washington, Oct 7

President Carter said this morning that if his energy policy is destroyed by the Senate he will try again next year. He hinted that he might veto any legislation which did not conform to the programme he presented last April as "the moral equivalent of war", and said that his proposals were designed to avert "an almost inevitable crisis".

He also issued a warning against the oil lobby, whose shadow, he said, "is hovering over Capitol Hill". Indeed, it has been the oil lobby that he has been fighting, it has scored a notable victory. Mr Carter's energy policy is in ruins and the hope that it might be salvaged grows dimmer with every passing day, each of which brings some new disaster.

When he announced the policy, at a session of Congress and in broadcasts to the nation last April, it was assumed that the Administration was in for a fight in Congress and all of the important legislation would have to be postponed until the energy Bills were out of the way.

If the main provisions of the energy programme are now defeated, the legislative achievements of this session of Congress will seem remarkably slight. The President has secured permission, for his

Department of Energy, a reshuffle of various agencies under the direction of Mr James Schlesinger, to reorganize energy administration, and not much else.

The energy programme was divided into six separate Bills by the Senate and, one after another, they have been destroyed or emasculated. After a long filibuster, the Senate defeated the President's attempt to extend federal controls over the price of natural gas and, instead, passed a Bill freeing any new discoveries of gas from price control.

The Senate finance committee has been consistently hostile to the tax provisions of the programme, refusing to pass a Bill imposing a tax on domestic oil, and has now passed a Bill of its own forbidding the President to increase the tax on oil imports.

Yesterday the committee, in a moment of delighted candour, passed a motion, by nine votes to three, on the desirability of achieving the President's proposed reduction in oil imports "not through taxes but through tax credits, tax moratoria and incentives".

The United States now imports about half the oil it consumes, a far higher proportion of a higher total than at the time of the Arab oil boycott in 1973, which caused such consternation. The oil lobby has now persuaded the Senate finance committee that, if it is left alone, it can increase production enough to meet the

President's target of reducing imports by 4,500,000 barrels of oil a day.

Loyalists on the committee, including its chairman, Senator Russell Long, have been trying to get Bills resembling the ones the President wants out of the committee, and have failed.

The committee abandoned the effort yesterday. Senator Long tried to push out the Bills in whatever state they were in and leave their fate to the joint committee of the two Houses. He said there would then be a chance that the joint committee would produce Bills acceptable to the President and to Congress, but the White House is hard put to pretend to believe him.

Even this counsel of desperation has been sidetracked, the President's supporters assume a Bill acceptable to both House and Senate could be produced by the joint committee.

If it resembled the House Bill, which is more or less what the President wanted, the Senate would turn it down. The leaders of the House, notably Mr Thomas P. O'Neill, the Speaker, have already said they will defeat any legislation on energy prices and taxes resembling the Bills now coming through the Senate.

To the energy policy's advocates, therefore, making a last effort at compromise in the Senate. Their chances are not rated very highly.

Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, gave an optimistic report last night on the progress of negotiations to reconvene the Geneva conference.

"Things are moving", he said after a meeting with Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, which Mr Fahmi described as constructive.

This is taken as an indication that the Egyptians view favourably the formula for resuming the talks worked out in long negotiations this week between President Carter, Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Mr Vance. Its object is to bridge the gap between the Arabs' insistence on the PLO and the PLO's insistence on the PLO.

The "working paper" devised in the talks with Mr Dayan is believed to allow for an initial plenary group at the conference consisting of a half of a unified Arab delegation. After the opening proceedings, this group would break into working parties for detailed negotiation.

This in itself does not resolve the issue of Palestinian representation, but it does allow for a possible compromise has come from Mr Zehdi Labbi Terzi, the PLO observer at the United Nations. He said that the Palestinian representatives need not be known members of the PLO, but must be such persons as favours from the occupied West Bank—a class of representative which the Israelis

## Vatican call for more freedom of religion

From Richard Davy and  
Dessa Trosman  
Belgrade, Oct 7

A panorama of different aspects of East-West relations unfolded here today as the last of the 35 speeches reviewing the Helsinki Agreement would to a close. There were contributions from the Vatican, Hungary, East Germany, Malta, Monaco, Belgium, Italy, Cyprus, Denmark and Ireland. The record for brevity was broken by the delegate from Monaco, who spoke for five minutes about marine pollution.

Mgr Achille Silvestrini, speaking for the Vatican, appealed for arms reductions and drew up a balance-sheet of good and bad experiences since the signing of the Helsinki Agreement. The Holy See, he said, attached prime importance to religious freedom, but showed no less interest in other fundamental rights of man.

In the religious sphere there had been encouraging developments in contacts between churches and confessional groups and in facilities for travel for religious reasons, including visits to Rome.

There had also been concessions to religious communities to publish prayer books and catechisms and to import thousands of religious publications. There had been no obstacles to certain religious radio programmes such as transmissions of Vatican radio.

However, on the question of religious freedom inside states there was a continuing multiplication of appeals and testimonies often proceeding and so forth because the situation in various regions was still far from a normal life of sufficient freedom. There were complaints about difficulties in the way of religious education and restrictions on pastoral activity.

The Hungarian delegate concentrated mainly on economic cooperation and said there was still no significant improvement in discriminatory trade policies towards Hungary. He complained about delays in resolving visas and other problems put in the way of Hungarians wishing to visit the West.

He also regretted that Western countries were not following Hungary's example in subsidising the import of foreign literature, although the Helsinki Final Act obliges states to promote access by all to respective cultural achievements.

He said that Hungary fully guarantees fundamental human rights "in accordance with the interests of its people, within the framework of the constitution".

Mr T. F. O'Sullivan, the leader of the Irish delegation, said that the sections of the Helsinki Agreement on human rights had special significance for his country. Irish people, he said, were proud of their own history, during long periods of which they had suffered from political and economic rights were central issues; regard the actual freedom to exercise and enjoy them as vital to a decent nation's social life.

The delegate from Cyprus attacked Turkey for violating the Helsinki Agreement.

## Governor of Maryland is jailed for four years

From Michael Leppman  
New York, Oct 7

Baltimore, Oct 7.—Mr Marvin Mandel, the Governor of Maryland, was sentenced today to four years in a federal prison and stripped of his office for mail fraud and racketeering.

Mr Mandel, who is 57, was sentenced to four years for each of 15 counts of mail fraud and to four years for a single racketeering count, with all sentences to run concurrently.

Judge Robert Taylor said Mr Mandel's elaborate defence would be held under normal standards, meaning that he would probably have to serve at least one year in prison.

Mr Mandel addressed the court before he was sentenced, saying that he had always been committed to the people of Maryland and offering no apology for his actions.

"I spent over half my life in public life," he said. "Now my whole life is in disarray. I have lost my life and my home."

He told the judge: "I know you have a very difficult and sad chore to do and I am prepared to (accept) your judgment."

Mr Mandel could have been fined \$50,000 for racketeering, but judge quoted newspaper reports that the former Governor was bankrupt and imposed no fine.

Mr Mandel told the court: "It is a fact that I am insolvent, from the point of view of physical assets. But I am not insolvent in the eyes of the law. There are more important things than money and property."

The prosecution said Mr Mandel influenced race course legislation to benefit the defendants as payment for their gifts. Most of the money was given by Mr Mandel to finance his divorce.

Mr Barner Skolnik, the Assistant United States Attorney, urged the court to show no mercy to Mr Mandel.

## Egyptian optimism on peace conference

From Michael Leppman  
New York, Oct 7

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## Retirement of Watergate cases judge

Washington, Oct 7.—Judge John Sirica, whose courtroom control of the Watergate trials helped to unravel the Nixon political scandal, will retire from regular duty on the federal bench at the end of this month, the White House said today.

Judge Sirica, who is 73, sent President Carter a letter informing him of his decision to take "senior judge" status on the United States district court.

Mr Carter accepted the decision and, in a letter to the judge, called him "a lasting symbol of unflinching devotion to duty."

"You have been given an opportunity afforded to few of us who enter public service to exhibit, at a time of the greatest challenge to our system of government, the personal courage and wisdom needed to sustain it," he wrote.—UPI.

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Mr Carter accepted the decision and, in a letter to the judge, called him "a lasting symbol of unflinching devotion to duty."

"You have been given an opportunity afforded to few of us who enter public service to exhibit, at a time of the greatest challenge to our system of government, the personal courage and wisdom needed to sustain it," he wrote.—UPI.

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## Romania rebuked for action against Unesco director

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Oct 7

Unesco has severely criticized Romania for "an apparent breach of international commitments". Mr Leonard Martin, the British chairman of the executive board, said that Romania had broken both the United Nations Charter and the Unesco constitution by interfering in the functions of a member of the secretariat.

The protest concerns Mr Sorin Dumitrescu, a Romanian, who was the director of the water sciences division. He had represented Unesco as director-general at a meeting in June, 1976, in Romania. But when he was leaving the country with the official mission, he was detained at the frontier and later appeared before a tribunal to face action

under a decree which banned Romanians from receiving emoluments in foreign currencies.

He was asked to pay to the state the sum he had received. Mr Dumitrescu had asked Unesco for a salary advance to pay the sum and this was given on condition that Unesco, the case had been settled.

However, in the interval, the Romanian authorities had written to Unesco offering Mr Dumitrescu's resignation. Mr Dumitrescu had himself written asking that this letter be regarded as null and void.

Approaches were made to the Romanian authorities, culminating in a mission which was received last week by President Ceausescu, but nothing had been done to allow Mr Dumitrescu to resume his duties at Unesco.

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## Envy 'causes dislike of Germans'

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Oct 7

After the Italian Government's condemnation last night of extreme rightwing responsibility for recent political violence, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, points out in an interview published here today that fascism was not born in Germany nor is it limited to Germany.

Interviewed by the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*, Herr Schmidt concedes that fascism reached its worst and most terrifying expression in Germany.

Germans scarcely more than children any would in the future still be called to account for Hitler, Auschwitz, and other. But it was not acceptable that other countries which had tolerated fascism should dismiss their own past and unload on their German neighbours all the blame for the evil of the world.

It should also not be forgotten that horrible crimes, not only war crimes but also crimes against humanity, had been perpetrated elsewhere during the past century.

He added: "Because I am sensitive, and want to remain so, I understand some of the preoccupations about us."

"What I find totally incomprehensible, however, is that such preoccupations are expressed always and only about the Federal Republic and never towards the communist dictatorship of the German Democratic Republic. This reflects in my opinion a unilateral judgment which is not justified historically or morally."

He saw envy behind some of the criticisms of Germany. There were also strictly national explanations for attacks on the Germans. "Germany becomes a substitute for their internal enemies." If the Germans were economically weak, and the destiny of the German worker like the average European levels, and if inflation and unemployment were as high as in Italy or Britain, many critics would cease to be so interested in the Germans.

Germany did not have a strong Communist Party. It had four of five which scarcely managed to reach 1 per cent of the vote. "In other words, the political climate is much more democratic, much more homogeneous and social relations much more tranquil than in the majority of other European countries."

He did not think that relations between Italy and Germany would be damaged for a long period as a result of the escape from Italian custody of Herr Herbert Kappler, the war criminal who escaped from an Italian hospital. "On the German side there is no arrogance towards Italy, and I hope that on the Italian side there is no arrogance towards the Germans." Herr Schmidt is expected here shortly on an official visit.

The chief of police in Trieste has denied permission to an extreme right-wing leader, Signor Giorgio Ammirante, to speak in the city as planned tomorrow. The ban follows a series of protests from local organizations.

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## Paris court frees British woman in 'Carlos case'

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Oct 7







# Saturday Review

The large square room of Mr Morpurgo's car trudged us across the Thames and past the Houses of Parliament into the part of London south of Hyde Park, where the squares are faced with stucco and the tall houses are white cliffs round the green gardens; and he grew very cheerful. "Now we are near home," he said, "and I am quite looking forward to meeting my wife at luncheon. Though she has been back for two days I have hardly seen her. Unhappily her journey has given her one of those agonizing headaches which are the curse of her life. They make it absolutely impossible for her to talk to anybody, and while they last she simply has to shut herself up in her bedroom and pull down the blinds, and that's what she has been doing ever since she came back. We had a long talk together on her arrival, and suddenly the old pain started. No, no, there was no question of putting you off. I would have been quite ruthless in asking you to come another day if it has been necessary. But I asked her yesterday evening, and she said that if she dined in bed and took a sleeping draught she would be quite fit for the party today."

"Travel has been unlucky for you both lately," said Mamma. "You really looked quite ill when you came back from that Continental journey which you said you hadn't enjoyed." "Ah, yes," he sighed sobered by the memory. "But that, as you realized, was because of all the cooking in oil. See, this is where I live, the big house, the very big house, lying cross-ways at the corner of the square, and not at all in keeping. There is nothing one can do about that. As the Almighty pointed out to Job, nothing can be done about betweenness and leviathan. No, do not get out yet, the footman will open the door."

At those last words I was stricken with terror. Like all people brought up in households destitute of menservants, we regarded them as implacable enemies of the human kind, who could implement their ill-will by means of supernatural powers which enabled them to see through a guest's pretensions as soon as they let him into the house and to denounce him to the rest of the company without the use of speech. We hurried past the footman with our eyes on the ground and thus were unaware till we had entered the hall that this was not just a large house, such as we had expected Mr Morpurgo to possess, it was large like a theatre or a concert-hall. We stood washed by the strong light that poured from a glass dome far above us, on a shining floor set with a geometric pattern of black and white marble squares and triangles and crescents, a staircase swept down with the curve of a broad, slow waterfall; the walls were so wide that one took a tapestry where two armies fought it out on land round a disputed city in the foreground, and in the background two navies fought it out among an archipelago lying where a sea and estuary met; and on the facing wall a towering Renaissance chimney-piece rose into a stone forest honeycombed by several hunts. When Mr Morpurgo had had his hat and coat taken from him, he wheeled round and faced us, his little arms spread out, his little legs wide apart.

"Of course," he said gravely, "we have no need for a house as large as this, there are only five of us. But a man must have a house he can turn round in." We remained silent, and he went to Mamma and took her hand and kissed it. "Clare, you have brought up your children beautifully. Not one of them laughed. So I will tell you about this house, and why you must not laugh at it."

The butler and the footman all suddenly looked as remote as if they had taken a drug and shifted to another planet. They did not look like the devil I had expected; rather they recalled Shakespearean courtiers dealing with what must have been the chief problems of their lives: how to stand within earshot of their lord and masters and seem not to be listening, and how to find a stance which would carry them comfortably through soliloquies. "The truth is," said Mr Morpurgo, "I have too much house, as I am apt to have too much everything. But there is reason to be kind about the excess of this place. My father built it because he was a Jew, one of a persecuted people, and he was entertained by King Edward the Seventh, on an occasion which really deserves to be remembered. Nobody said anything about it the other day when he died. I suppose it was impossible because we want to keep the peace among the nations. But it may in the future be remembered as an example of a thing that only a king could do, and a thing that you would not expect to be within the range of a Hanoverian king, for it had wit. As you are sure to know, the Tsar of Russia hates his Jewish subjects. He has been furiously anti-Semitic ever since the time when he was a young man travelling in Japan and a waiter who had gone mad hit him on the head with a heavy tray; and it does not merely happen that there are pogroms in Russia, they are promoted by the government, that is to say, by the Tsar. Well, when the Tsar came to England in 1896 the Prince of Wales administered a rebuke to his niece's young

husband. He invited him to spend a weekend at Sandringham, and when the Tsar got there he found that nearly all his fellow-guests were Jews. One of them was my father, and he was profoundly impressed. It is true that many people, on hearing this story, are less impressed, and point out that the Prince of Wales had borrowed a great deal of money from those Jews which he had never repaid. But such people are always Gentiles. We Jews know that there are many people who borrow money from us and do not repay it, and that it is not really very usual for such borrowers to make beautiful and courteous gestures in defence of our race. So my father, having been asked to Sandringham on this auspicious occasion, built this house, because he felt exalted and wanted to make a visible symbol that our race is honoured on earth as we have always been perhaps a little too certain that it is honoured in heaven. Therefore, children, think gently of this house, and forget as I try to forget, that my father should really have understood that it is ridiculous to build in the Renaissance style with machine-cut stone."

He suddenly came to a halt and his smile faded. "Manning," he said, and the butler came forward. Mr Morpurgo pointed to a Homberg that was lying on the hall-table, and asked, "Does that mean that we have another guest for luncheon?"

"Yes, sir," said the butler. "Mr Weissbach is in the drawing-room."

Mr Morpurgo repeated, "Mr Weissbach? But why has he come? I did not ask him." He passed his hand across his forehead. "There must be some mistake. I must have asked him for another day. Yet I can't remember doing anything of the sort."

The butler licked his lips. "Mr Weissbach rang up this morning just after you left, sir, and said that he had just come back from abroad, and was very anxious to see you, and I put him through to Madam, who spoke to him and then told me that he would be another guest for luncheon."

He spoke with glowing discretion. Mr Morpurgo seemed stupefied by what he heard. There was the same atmosphere that there used to be at school when there was trouble between the teachers. Only Mamma did not realize that something had gone wrong. Her eyes were wandering among the handsome valour of the lances and pennants on the armies in the tapestries, the compressed churches, the palaces in the city they depicted; she was softly humming some music that seemed to her appropriate.

Mr Morpurgo continued to stare at the Homberg hat. At last he said, in the voice of a reasonable and unperturbed man, "It seems that my wife has arranged for you to meet Mr Mortimer Weissbach. An art-dealer, a famous art-dealer. Not one of the dealers I took you to see Clare, when we had your pictures to sell. He specializes in Italian art. God has thought fit to take the Holy Land away from my people, but of late years He has done much to compensate for this by giving some of them the quattrocento to cultivate instead. Come, let us go up my staircase, my enormous staircase."

He halted us on the landing. A single picture hung between two doors, presented with pomp, set in a gilt panel carved with pilasters and an arch; a Madonna and Child painted in flat, bright colours with much gold. My Simone Mardini," he said tenderly. As he gazed on it he might have been sucking toffee. Shyly he added, "Hardly a painting, I've often thought, more a mosaic made of tiles taken up from the floor of heaven." New tiles. I've got another picture, my Gentile de Fabriano, who did the trick with some of the worn tiles from the same place. I don't know which I like better. "Beautiful," Mamma murmured and passed into a trance. She opened her mouth, and Mr Morpurgo drew nearer to hear what comment his treasure had drawn from her. She said, "I wish my husband had been more interested in pictures. It would have given him such a nice rest from politics, and he would have enjoyed painting. He had turned his mind to it, he had quite a feeling for painting."

"Indeed he had," said Richard Quin. "We have lots of sketch books of his, you know, with water-colours he did in Ireland and Ceylon and South Africa." "Where are those sketch-books now?" asked Cordelia in sudden panic. "We must not lose them, we lose everything." "I have them, dear," said Mamma, and continued, "He had no ear for music, and anyway music would not have been right for him. But painting is a calm art, and he needs calm." "Well, calm can come to a man in many ways," said Mr Morpurgo. "And what a family it is!" he groaned. "You look at a picture, and you appreciate it. I can see by the way you keep your eyes on this one that you get its form and its colours, yet they all turn into thoughts of Piers. But for you everything, absolutely everything, turns into thoughts of Piers, doesn't it?"

"You must forgive us," said Mamma, "we cannot help it."



Illustration by Franklin Wilson

## Lunch with Mr Morpurgo

by Rebecca West

And really—" she added impatiently, and then checked herself and smiled. For an instant she had supposed Mr Morpurgo was being silly, but of course he was so nice that it was wrong to admit that, even when it was true. "And really it isn't a fault. Even if it wasn't Piers we're talking about, and of course he stands head and shoulders above anyone else, isn't it natural for a wife to think of her husband, for children to think of their father?"

"Yes," agreed Mr Morpurgo. "It is natural. One might go further and say it is nearly the whole of nature." The idea seemed to please him. He warmed himself at it for a moment, then said gravely, "And now, come and meet the people of whom I naturally think. Come and meet my wife and daughter."

Now the butler, who had maintained his character as a Shakespearean courtier by moving a couple of paces away from us with an air of withdrawing to another part of the forest, came forward and opened a door at a blank verse pace. We found ourselves in a large room which seemed to us glittering and confused. The light that streamed in from high windows was given back by chandeliers, broadened hangings, the glass on pictures and in display cabinets, and a number of crystal and silver objects; and among the built chairs and tables there stood several great screens of flowers, four or five feet high. At the end of the room, dark against a window, stood a group of people, from which after too long a pause, a tall and rounded figure detached itself. It was Mrs Morpurgo, and she was extremely surprised. She wore a hat; at that time all women of position wore hats when they entertained their friends to luncheon. Her hat was huge, and

under it her thick ginger-gold hair was piled up in the shape of a Phrygian cap, and this gave her a preternaturally massive head, so it could clearly be seen that she had drawn it back, as people do when faced with something they simply cannot understand. Her body too was magnified by her puffed sleeves and her rich, self-supporting, floured skirt, and so the questioning shrug of her shoulders, the hesitation of her gait, were magnified too. It was nothing about us which startled her; her glance had not examined us. She seemed not to have expected anybody, anybody at all, to have come in by that particular door, and as there were two other doors in the room, and as the three young girls behind her were smiling as if they were witnessing a ridiculously familiar scene, I supposed that Mr Morpurgo obstinately entered this room by a door which for some reason should not be used, just as Papa always left the gas burning in his study when he went to bed.

But it was odd of Mrs Morpurgo to make a fuss about so small a matter at this moment, for her husband was caught up in solemn exaltation. If his eyes had met mine I would not have dared to smile. He said, "Hermine, this is my old friend, Clara Aubrey." His voice wavered, and he cleared his throat. "The wife," he explained, "of Piers Aubrey, whom I so much admire. And here are her Cordelia, and Rose and Richard Quin." As he slowly spoke our names he spread out his arms around us in a patriarchal gesture which announced his hope that his family and ours, should be welded together for ever in the shelter of his affection. But he immediately curbed his gesture. Had it been completed, it must have included within its scope Mr Weissbach,

who at that moment stepped from behind a pyramid of gladioli and roses and took up a position beside the young girls. The manner in which Mr Morpurgo exclaimed, "Ah, Weissbach!" conveyed too brutally just where the project of adoption he had declared left off. Though Mr Weissbach plainly did not need to be adopted since he was an elegantly dressed gentleman in middle life, silver-haired and neatly bearded and closely resembling King Edward the Seventh, he might well have felt hurt. Mr Morpurgo began again. "You remember, Hermine, I have so often talked of these young people," but the remark broke against the hard surfaces of his wife's round bewilderment. His voice cracked, his hands made fluttering, coaxing movements, and then were still. He sighed something kind which could hardly be heard.

I had mistaken the cause of Mrs Morpurgo's surprise. We had not come into the room by the wrong door. But her husband had come into the room, and had brought us with him, and she was surprised by that, because everything her husband did struck her as inexplicable. This I realized very soon, for Mrs Morpurgo had no secrets. She controlled her words well enough, saying the same sort of things that the mothers of our schoolfellows said when we went to tea with them, but as she spoke, the truth was blared aloud by the intonations of her commanding voice, the expressions which passed over her face, legible as the words on a poster, and her vigorous movements. "This is Marguerite," she told my mother, "and this is Marie Louise, nearly grown-up, just grown-up, which should I say? Just like your Cordelia and Rose. Oh, yes, terribly dignified, aren't my pets? And here's our baby, Stephanie. Is your boy as young?" But her clear, protruding, astonishingly bright grey-green eyes were saying, "Well, I am doing what he wants, but why should he want me to do it? What do these people do to me? He thrusts them on me?" She went on, "Ah, then there are three months between them, but he is inches taller," and her accents asked, "What can possibly come of it if I am as nice to them as he insists? We have nothing in common with them; how am I to carry on a relationship even if I begin it?" In the midst of a pleasant remark about Cordelia and myself she bit her lip in annoyance and shuddered. "It is always the same," she might as well have said aloud, "he never stops doing this sort of thing, it is insupportable."

Then her eyes flashed, she turned aside from us. "Edgar, my dear," she said, with the air of clearing up at least one tangle in this disordered world that was being created about her against her will, and seeing to it that he should not make one of his absurd accusations that she was the one who muddled things, "you may be surprised to see Mr Weissbach here, but he rang up just after you went out, and specially wanted to see you because he's just this minute come back from Italy, where he's been picking up all sorts of lovely things, and I thought that as we were having Mrs Aubrey and her family to lunch, we would be delighted to see Mr Weissbach, too."

A coldness came into the gentle smile that lived brilliantly and all the time between Mr Weissbach's neatly clipped moustache and pointed beard, and Mr Morpurgo put down his head as if his wife's speech had had an echo and he were listening to it with scientific interest. The extreme fatigue with which Mrs Morpurgo had uttered the last phrase could not have more clearly intimated that as her husband had insisted on Weissbach's waste time at luncheon, Mr Weissbach, who also wanted to waste her time, might as well waste the same piece of time. Mamma regarded her with the pity she always extended to people under a special handicap, one of the daughters giggled, the tick of the ormolu clock on the mantelpiece sounded very loud. Mrs Morpurgo looked at her husband with the expression which could have been foretold. "Again you are behaving incomprehensibly," she wondered silently, running a firm finger over her lips in affected doubt. "Why on earth could what I have just said have annoyed anybody?"

Furiously she addressed my mother, "Will you not sit down?" and drew her to a chair beside the fireplace, and remained standing beside her, sometimes rocking back on her heels, as if the strangeness of what was happening to her had actually thrown her off her balance, while she impatiently engaged her in light conversation. She was splendid under the light from the high windows. Her face was unlined. Her skin was smooth and radiant like the surface of fine porcelain. It seemed to have something to do with her difficulty in apprehension.

I was left with her two elder daughters, at whom I smiled, for they had aroused my respect. They had escaped the ugliness of their father but they had not achieved the handsomeness of their mother; for she was handsome. Though she made war on ease by every word she said, she promised ease by the cushioned firmness of her flesh, the brilliance of her flesh, her eyes, and skin

and hair. But the girls were exquisitely neat in their blouses and bell skirts, neater than Cordelia. It did not occur to me that this was because they were dressed a lady's maid, so I imagined them to be delectable and precise. I saw them parting for the day in more lously tidy bedrooms clean by the cool morning light standing in front of the glass, and smoking their blouses into the right fluff at their waists, their hair beds smooth behind the almost undisturbed by night. I was disconcerted when they answered me with smiles which were certainly reserved and perhaps mocking. Cordia was having better luck, for Mr Weissbach was talking to her as politely as if she were a grown-up; I had expected a more polite than there. I supposed that there people would make it for granted that they should make much of her. But her husband had asked Mr Morpurgo about a miniature on one of the tables, and Mr Morpurgo was answering, "It is interesting that you should want to know who that is. My husband has a very fine miniature of a man. He was a Baron Marshal of Irish origin. Come here, Stephanie, and see Richard Quin, all you know about him." That, too, I had expected her to say. My husband's pedantry, his harmless pedantry, his enjoyment of knowledge which was as purely ornamental as flowers, unlike my father's kind of knowledge, which was a stock of fuel for crusade. Mrs Morpurgo and Mr Morpurgo, who continued to be silent and look as if I amused them, were not what I had expected. I had to own the Mary might be right. The world might have its reasons for being as it is.

Mrs Morpurgo suddenly broke off her conversation with Mamma to remark in the voice of desperation itself, "Surely luncheon is very late!"

"No," said Mr Morpurgo coolly. "It is now three minutes before our usual hour." "I could not have believed it," said Mrs Morpurgo. "But it is strange, time seems to pass so quickly at times, and so slowly at others. Well, a luncheon," she said, with an air of changing a plan, "we will be able to listen to Mr Weissbach telling us of all the treasures he found in Italy. Treasures," she explained to us with a light laugh, "to Mr Weissbach and to my husband, not to me. Can you bear these stupid-looking stiff Madonnas and these ugly little Christs?"

Then her eyes flashed, she turned aside from us. "Edgar, my dear," she said, with the air of clearing up at least one tangle in this disordered world that was being created about her against her will, and seeing to it that he should not make one of his absurd accusations that she was the one who muddled things, "you may be surprised to see Mr Weissbach here, but he rang up just after you went out, and specially wanted to see you because he's just this minute come back from Italy, where he's been picking up all sorts of lovely things, and I thought that as we were having Mrs Aubrey and her family to lunch, we would be delighted to see Mr Weissbach, too."

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Overture: Russumunde ..... Schubert  
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 Violin Concerto in E minor ..... **MEYERBEER**  
 Violin Concerto in D ..... **BEETHOVEN**

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 Conductor: **LAWRENCE FOSTER**  
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## Gardening

## Ready for the chop?

Some years ago we had a special offer in *The Times* of conifers—fast and slow growing varieties. It was not a success. I wrote: "If you have an empty garden, border or rock garden why not do as I did 20 years ago?" I then went on to suggest that you plant some quick growing conifers and a few feet away some slow growing varieties that would take 10 to 15 years to reach their full height. In the meantime, the fast growers would have grown too big and would be removed.

I call this the doctrine of expendability and if you stop and consider, it makes a lot of sense.

I did not, unhappily, realize that few of my readers have empty gardens, borders or rock gardens and so they did not bother to read beyond the first sentence.

I only return to this subject now because I have seen so many dead trees and shrubs in gardens and a lot that are so mangy and moribund that they would be better grubbed out and sent to the bonfire.

As a nation we are kind to birds and animals and we can not bear to chop down a tree or shrub even when it is long past its best and indeed may have become an affront to anybody who knows what a healthy tree or shrub should look like.

So may I suggest a critical look at the garden, a hardening of the heart may be and a rooting out of trees or shrubs that are no longer any ornament to the garden. Then there is the exquisite and agonizing problem of what to plant to replace them. Each situation has to be dealt with individually.

For quick screening or to provide a wind break we have to go for a swift growing conifer like the green or gold form of *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, or *Chamaecyparis 'Green Hedger'*, *C. lawsoniana*, *Larix laricina* or one of the other fast growing forms of Lawson's cypress. A conifer that I like very much and which is quite quick growing is *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' which will reach 10-15 feet in four or five years and stay at that height. Its foliage turns a rusty red in autumn and goes back to green in the spring—very interesting.

Cuttings of it root easily enough and I always had one or two plants coming along to replace any that were large for their lodgings. The type plant *C. japonica* itself will grow 50 feet in time. By now there is a good stock of the dawn cypress, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* in the trade and this is a fairly fast grower, revelling in a moist, even a boggy situation, but growing albeit more slowly in dry soils. My tree is now more than 30 years old and only 20 feet high, but to be fair it was moved four times!

In recent years I have become very attracted to golden and variegated trees—those with green and silver foliage. A particular favourite is *Robinia pseudacacia* 'Frisia' which makes a small to medium sized tree up to about 30 feet with an eventual spread of 10-15 feet. It has bright golden leaves all summer and is particularly bright as autumn approaches.

Another charming tree about the same size and fine for the small garden is *Acer negundo* 'Variegatum' with white and green foliage. I think we could

with advantage plant more acers, or maples as they are commonly called, especially some of those which give vivid autumn colouring such as *A. japonicum* which turns a The scarlet and *A. ginnala* which obtains a splendid rich crimson hue in a good autumn.

Looking over some notes I made back in the spring, I see I intended to mention the Cornelian cherry, *Cornus mas*. It is more of a shrub than a tree, eight to 12 feet and rather less across, but it is a great asset in the early months—February to April—when it covers its bare branches with small clusters of yellow flowers.

Another small tree that also flowers on the bare branches but not until April or May is the Judas tree *Cercis siliquastrum*. The type plant has purple flowers and there is a rather rare white variety.

Magnolias should also, I feel, be planted more often. The genus contains splendid shrubs and trees for gardens large and small in country or town—indeed *Magnolia soulangeana* I have seen flourishing on New York's Fifth Avenue which must be one of the most polluted thoroughfares in the world, in front gardens in the heart of Hamburg, and in many other cities. The dwarf shrub *M. stellata* about eight to 10 feet high and across is fragrant, very free with its white flowers in March and April; there are several varieties and one worth seeking out is 'Rosea', with pink flowers.

Where there is plenty of space and you have patience plant *M. campbellii* which in time will make a large tree. Unfortunately it will not produce its large flowers, white, pink, or red in the different varieties until it is 20 to 30 years old.

The superb evergreen *Magnolia grandiflora* is more accommodating. It is usually grown against a wall and will reach 10-15 feet with a similar spread. The huge creamy white flowers appear from July to September. It may also be grown as a free standing bush in a sheltered sunny corner.

Young tree lovers could also plant a tulip tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* which will eventually reach 25 feet and bear masses of yellow bell-shaped flowers in July, but not until it is 15 years old or more.

The dove tree, pocket handkerchief or ghost tree, *Davidia involucreata*, drapes itself with pairs of white bracts in May, that look like dove's wings or pocket handkerchiefs. It is a tree that round headed small tree and should be planted so that it can be seen against a dark background. It is not fussy about soil, is perfectly hardy, but will take perhaps 10 years before it obliges with pocket handkerchiefs.

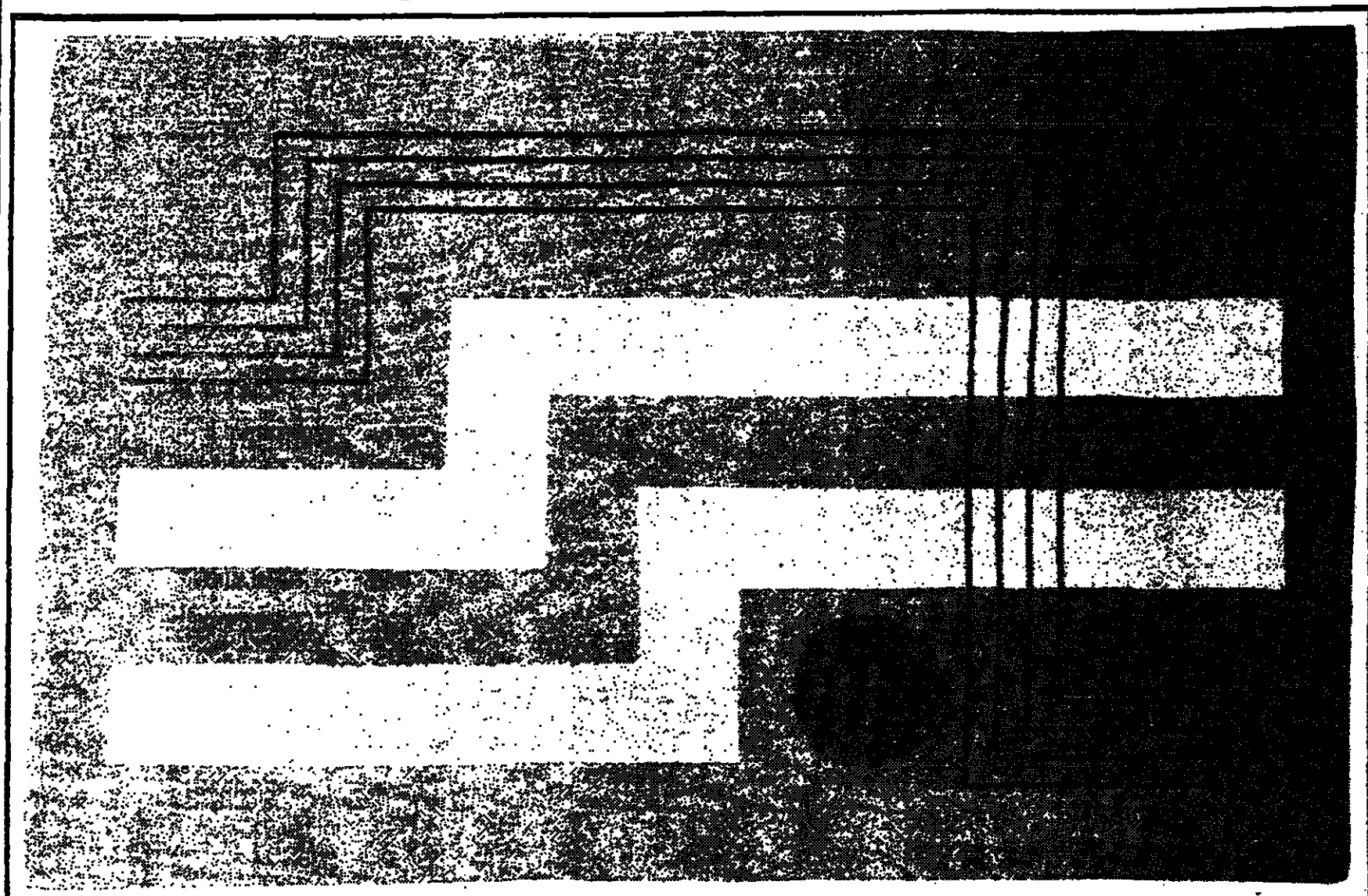
Of course if you are in a hurry to have flowering trees in blossom you have the whole range of flowering cherries, crab apples, laburnum and among the shrubs, *Malus*, *Philadelphus*, *Ribes*, *Weigela*, *Escallonia*, *Genista* and many more that I have written about so many times.

Since writing about fruits recently, several readers have asked for a source of supply of maiden trees, ie one-year-old trees, which they can train into various forms. Mr Michael Pirie, 82 Kingston Road, Oxford, OX2 6RJ, supplies certified trees and apples and pears as maidens and also supplies maiden plum trees which are not certified but have been inspected for sterility disease.

Roy Hay

## Collecting

## Rugs with an abstract appeal



A hand-knotted rug made in China for Betty Joel

Crown Copyright, Victoria and Albert Museum

During the 1920s and 1930s an unusual art form appeared in Europe—the Modernist rug. Despite the new directions and new requirements of interior design, the signed rug, which became a focal point in the decoration of a room, was something of a freak event, and despite the activities of the weaving workshops of the Bauhaus, or the Omega Workshops in England, it drew its inspiration from new sources. Already the innovative impetus of such Victorian designers as Owen Jones had been forgotten in a recoil from the eclectic clutter of that era and an enthusiasm for the exciting liberation of the abstract designs of Cubism.

The first real influence on English designers probably came from the 1925 Paris Exhibition, which showed several Modernist rugs: the abolition of the border and the use of a white, or natural off-white, background lent a revolutionary free space for the outward, internal movement of abstract designs, which in turn emphasized the medium. E. McKnight Kauffer, an American who had first introduced Cubism into poster design, led by the fabric designer Marion Dorn to see the possibilities inherent in carpet weaving, was the first influential designer in England. His carpets were made by Mrs. Jean Orage, an Irishwoman living in Chelsea who drew all her own wool, and then, in 1928, by the Wilton Royal Carpet Factory.

Wilton Royal's championing of hand-tufted signed rugs (the "Wessex" rugs) was a courageous move during the economic slump of the time, but they continued to commission Marion Dorn, Marion Pepler, John Tandy, Ronald Grierson and others into the 1930s. In 1932, after a meeting in Düsseldorf between Alistair Morton, of the Carlisle carpet and textile firm of Morton Sundown, and Hans Aufhäuser (later Tisdall), the "Edinburgh Weavers" was set up with the conscious intention of evolving decorative fabrics suited to modern civilization, and, in particular, textiles more in tune with modern architectural styles. Several artists designed fabrics and carpets for them, such as Paul Nash, Ben Nicholson, Jean Varda and John Tandy, as well as the designers Marion Dorn, Terence Prentis and Ashley Havinden.

Although Heal's, Simpsons, Liberty and Fortnum & Mason, who commissioned special "off-the-peg" designs from Marion Dorn and at one time devoted an entire floor to Modernist designs, did sell these rugs, many designers were dependent on small galleries to sell their work.

Betty Joel, whose rugs were woven for her at Tientsin in China, had her own showrooms, Betty Joel Ltd, at 25, Knightsbridge, rugs by Francis Bacon were sold at Green & Abbott of Wigmore Street; Alan Walton Fabrics Ltd sold the work of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, woven

by the Blind Employment Factory; Ronald Grierson, his rugs woven in India, held a one man show at the Redfern Gallery in Cork Street in 1936 which sold out, despite opening on the day of Edward VIII's abdication; Arundel Clark's "Gem" in Chelsea and Duncan Miller Ltd were also notable showrooms. Probably the two most important exhibitions were those of Evelyn Waide's work at the Curtis Moffat Gallery and of Da Silva Brubas at Betty Joel Ltd in 1930-31, allowing new designers to admire both the design and real craftsmanship of their work.

Although the cost and difficulty of hand weaving these rugs meant that they were necessarily expensive, one-off items, it was as much the attitude of the various designers themselves, many of whom were primarily artists rather than weaver artisans, which established these rugs as art objects, signed works. Ronald Grierson is the only designer who has supported his family solely by his continued work as a carpet designer. I talked to John Tandy last winter, and he explained that to many artists their carpet designs were more inspired by the experimental atmosphere of the time in Europe which encouraged the feeling that pure art could be practically applied to any medium, than by any overall decorative concepts. And perhaps it could be said that the work of Marion Dorn, for example, was less original in an artistic sense; she was an interpreter within

the medium of home decoration rather than an intellectual designer; and it is in that area that a distinction could be made in evaluating these rugs, between those designed from an artist's point of view and those created from an interior decorator's within a general scheme.

Within the scope of interior decoration, which now laid stress on plain surfaces, light colours and congruity, the rugs did form the nucleus of the overall effect of a room, taking the place of a picture on the wall. In the era of the "all white room", originated by Da Silva Brubas, the rug took pride of place. Many of the changes in decor at this time, well represented at the Dorland Hall exhibition in 1933, were due as much to social pressures, as women moved out of the home and servants became a rarity, as to the influences of the new demand on decorative schemes such as Hollywood sets or the "Cunard" lines, which extended into hotels, cocktail lounges or cinemas. Where earlier decorative schemes in England, such as the work of Omega, were earnest, serious and above all unostentatiously intellectual, these designs were dynamic and artistic and represent an aspect of English design which is almost uncharacteristic. As with said, somewhat obliquely, of some of the French rugs: "Il n'y a pas plus de peinture dans ces tapis que de littérature dans le Cubisme." The most successful rugs are those with the

purest, non-representational (unless surreal) designs.

Although it is difficult at the moment to find good quality signed rugs, partly because many must still be in the hands of their original owners, several have been on the market. Prices in Sotheby's have been between £400 and £500 for signed carpets; a good Marion Dorn, Marion Pepler or slightly rarer, Betty Joel, would be between £550 and £750; rugs by John Tandy and Ronald Grierson have not been seen often so prices have not been established. The highest prices are fetched by McKnight Kauffer rugs, which can vary from £800 to £3,000, depending on size, quality and design. Other rugs by unknown designers, often French, and the many machine-made, debased designs of the time also come up.

The people to contact for the signed rugs are Michael and Jacqueline Fruskin at Antiquarius Market in the King's Road, Chelsea, who organized the exhibition of Modernist rugs at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, in 1975. The Victoria and Albert Museum have also purchased several rugs by McKnight Kauffer, Marion Dorn and Betty Joel, which are well worth taking a look at, though by appointment with the Textiles Department.

Isabelle Anscombe

The author has contributed the European section of *Rugs and Carpets of the World*, to be published by Quarto this autumn.

Bridge  
A case of careless defence

It is commonly asserted that defence is more difficult than dummy play; I doubt that this is true, except in those contracts where a defender rejects his partner's guidance and gives the declarer an opportunity to shine which should never have come his way. Two mistakes are continually made; they appear in the form of bad discards, accompanied sometimes by premature ruffing, and of failure to select a neutral lead at the appropriate time.

Here is a typical combination of mistakes which gave away a game.

East West game; dealer West:

♠ 8 6 4 2	♥ 8	♦ 8 6 4 2	♣ 8 6 4 2
♠ 10 8 5 3	♥ 10 8 5 3	♦ 10 8 5 3	♣ 10 8 5 3
♠ 9 7 6 5	♥ 9 7 6 5	♦ 9 7 6 5	♣ 9 7 6 5
♠ 4 3 2	♥ 4 3 2	♦ 4 3 2	♣ 4 3 2

West led the ♠K followed by the ♠A; declarer ruffed and drew two rounds of trumps, East discarding a club. South next led a heart, and by following with the ♠9 West gave his partner the impression that he wished to win the trick—possibly because he held a third trump. West should have been able to see that he had no effective lead other than a diamond, his partner having discarded a club; but he was unable to anticipate the danger from playing a heart. He forced a trump from dummy and with no alternative line of attack declarer led the ♠10, dropping East's ♠9 and discarding a diamond from his hand; the ♠8 now provided a home for South's remaining diamond loser.

Who was the more at fault, East who discarded the ♠9 or his partner who ignored his request for a diamond? I should describe West as the principal culprit, although his partner could have anticipated what might happen if West did not understand the meaning of his discard.

I have read a great many books on defence, but few of the authors stressed the importance of intermediate cards in giving guidance. A similar elementary mistake which is less obvious to West when he does not visualize the declarer's trump suit arises from a premature over-ruff.

North South game and 30. Dealer West:

♠ 10 9 8 3	♥ 10 8	♦ 10 8	♣ 10 8
♠ 7 6 5 4	♥ 7 6 5 4	♦ 7 6 5 4	♣ 7 6 5 4
♠ 6 5 4 3	♥ 6 5 4 3	♦ 6 5 4 3	♣ 6 5 4 3
♠ 2	♥ 2	♦ 2	♣ 2

West's double may be described as a reasonable bid at the score and East, who is not ashamed of his opening, is glad to leave it. Play followed normal lines, West opening the ♠Q succeeded by the ♠6 to the ♠K. East returned the ♠A ruffed by South with the ♠10 and over-ruffed with the ♠J. West led the ♠A and a second club, but the rubber was lost. Declarer can draw the remaining trumps and dispose of his losing club by taking the spade finesse. West missed his chance of developing a fifth trick by losing on loser play, discarding the ♠6 and relying upon his partner for an honour in trumps. He should have been aware that East was unlikely to produce the ♠A after making a preemptive opening.

In my final hand the defender on lead needed more foresight than is shown by most players. No score; dealer South:

♠ 10 9	♥ 10 8	♦ 10 8	♣ 10 8
♠ 7 6 5 4	♥ 7 6 5 4	♦ 7 6 5 4	♣ 7 6 5 4
♠ 6 5 4 3	♥ 6 5 4 3	♦ 6 5 4 3	♣ 6 5 4 3
♠ 2	♥ 2	♦ 2	♣ 2

After cashing his ♠K and ♠A West switched to the ♠Q which held the trick, and then to the ♠J ruffed by South. Declarer entered dummy twice with trumps, ruffing first a club and then the losing diamond. He returned to dummy with the ♠Q, played the ♠A, and squeezed East out of his heart trick. An early trump lead by West in place of his aggressive ♠Q would have provided a timely defence to declarer's dummy reversal.

Edward Mayer

Special offer  
Gardener's friends

Autumn is supposed to be the start of the gardener's year, when we put behind us the disappointments of the past 12 months and look forward to superb results next year. But first we have to clear up the mess nature has left us with this year, and here are a few items of equipment to help us do it with the minimum of effort.

The first is a "humper-dumper", which is a square sheet, 5 feet by 5 feet, of rot-

proof polypropylene plastic with ropes as handles, also of polypropylene, sewn to each corner. It is tough, hard wearing plastic. After use you just hose off any muck and leave it to dry. It enables you to pick up leaves, grass mowings and other debris from awkward places where it is difficult to manoeuvre a barrow or truck.

It may also be stored flat in a shed and does not take up room, like a truck or barrow. You can tie or loop the corner ropes together and sling the whole thing over your shoulder, leaving one hand free to carry tools.

The nylon/fibreglass ratchet pruner weighs only 4oz. The blades are coated with Teflon to give longer life. By using the ratchet action, that is cutting

through a branch by easy stages, this long pruner will cut through a 4-in branch with ease.

It does not need oiling, and when it becomes a bit grubby you just wash it thoroughly with a little detergent in the water.

There are plenty of incinerators on the market but many of them suffer from the disadvantage that the base is a fixed, welded part of the whole contraption. Eventually the base burns out and the whole thing is a write-off. In the incinerator we offer here, the base is a separate component and can be replaced when it is burnt out. The incinerator is 25in high and 20in square, holding 4 cubic feet of rubbish.

Many people quietly curse the autumn leaves because they have to bend over hundreds of times to pick them up and toss them into the barrow, or on to the "humper-dumper". The Gripper cuts out the stooping. It is like giant sugar tongs, made of lightweight aluminium, and for anybody with a back that aches if asked to do more bending than usual, it is a god-send.

These four aids really take a lot of the hard graft out of the annual garden clearing up. I would hate to be without any of them—indeed at almost any season of the year.



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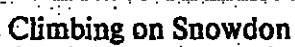
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## Travel



Information about these holidays is available from travel agents and British Rail. The Wales Tourist Board's *Autumn to Spring in Wales* is available from Wales Tourist Board, Department PR, PO Box 151, WDO, Cardiff, CF5 1XS. The English Tourist Board's "Let's Go" may be had from tourist information centres or from "Let's Go", 9endon Road, Sunderland, SR5 9XZ. Both publications are free and post free.

In my next article I hope to look at some of the autumn, winter and spring holidays available in Europe.

## John Carter



2

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(continued on page 24)



George Hutchinson

# Are communicators really necessary to bang the drum for the Tories?

A treasure he may or may not be: a Treasurer is, I judge, to Dr John Treasury, a notable of the advertising world who has become chairman of what is chillingly called an "overall communications strategy committee" in the Conservative Party. Two related committees have also been formed, one to advise on "creative approach", the other charged with "media planning".

Thus the Tories advance towards the Madison Avenue manner of electioneering. Whether this will increase their electoral prospects, or how much it may reduce them, time and experience will tell.

"Communications" is the word today, if you want to be in the swim. Even Mrs Thatcher has succumbed to its use when discussing her party's information and publicity services, whose head is now entitled "director of communications", as if he were a sort of radio engineer or signals officer.

Be that as it may (or rather be that as it is), these services are very important, supporting and complementing the guidance, explanation and encouragement expected of political leaders in their own

utterances. But they can never become a substitute for direct personal appeal. If a party's principal figures could not themselves address the public in such a way as to make their policies understood and attract approval they would indeed be in serious straits, and no amount of technical assistance could save them from the consequences.

"Action not Words" was perhaps the most inept slogan ever devised by the Conservative Party. Words are the stuff of politics, the heart, the mainspring. If a politician, great or small, cannot explain his principles and programme intelligibly he is scarcely a politician at all and ought to find some other outlet for his energies. Real political leadership cannot be exercised at any level without some gift of expression—altered, of course, to other qualities.

Mrs Thatcher is right, nevertheless, in her determination to strengthen the party's "communications", which are certainly in need of improvement. The aim is unexceptionable. Whether it can best be achieved or should even be attempted by reliance on marketing methods is disputable. What I firmly believe is that it would not be achieved by

resorting to extravagant expenditure on advertising, a course more likely to repel than reassure.

In Mrs Thatcher, it may be said, the Tories have a leader with a natural aptitude for exposition. They could hardly have enjoyed such a run of by-election successes if this were not so. Mrs Thatcher speaks with lucidity, candour and conviction. Under the influence of her example, political discussion has been liberated and enlarged, and there is, I believe, a greater awareness of the essential issues of public policy, of the fundamental differences separating the Tories from their opponents. She stimulates debate. She encourages debate.

If Conservative prospects appear to be slipping a little, this is because the decline in the Government's fortunes, so marked recently as June, has been checked, at least for the present. The economy may not be on the mend, day in day out, ministers maintain that it is, and many people are ready to take them at their word, such is the human disposition to prefer hope to despair.

That is one aspect of the

outlook confronting the Tories. There are others. We might take note of some of them as Mrs Thatcher enters the third party conference of her leadership, opening in Blackpool next week.

While the party in Parliament is not short of talent—there is more than enough to form a good government—it has lost a number of outstanding members in recent years for one reason or another (and I am not thinking of those who have retired on grounds of age). Some are former ministers—Edward Boyle, now Lord Boyle of Handsworth and vice-chancellor of Leeds University, Anthony Barber, now Lord Barber, banker. Mr David Lane has gone; Mr Jack Bruce-Gardner is not yet restored; Mr Humphrey Berkeley has joined the Labour Party.

But the foremost loss—the irreplaceable loss—is that of Mr Enoch Powell, the supreme political orator of his day and generations with his classic and compelling powers of persuasion. Mr Powell continues to exercise great influence, but no longer (alas) in the Tory interest.

Then there is the absence of Mr Heath from the higher

councils of the party. Again, it seems incredible, past belief. I am Mr Heath's biographer. Had I written, seven years ago, that within such a space of time he might cease to occupy a place in the Tory hierarchy you would have been entitled to dismiss me as fanciful, even crazy. Yet this has happened, however improbably, and is widely regretted. Mr Heath is assured of a warm welcome when he addresses the Conservative Political Centre at its conference meeting in Blackpool next Wednesday, speaking on the future of Europe. There are many who would wish to see him seated again at the top table, to which he is so accustomed.

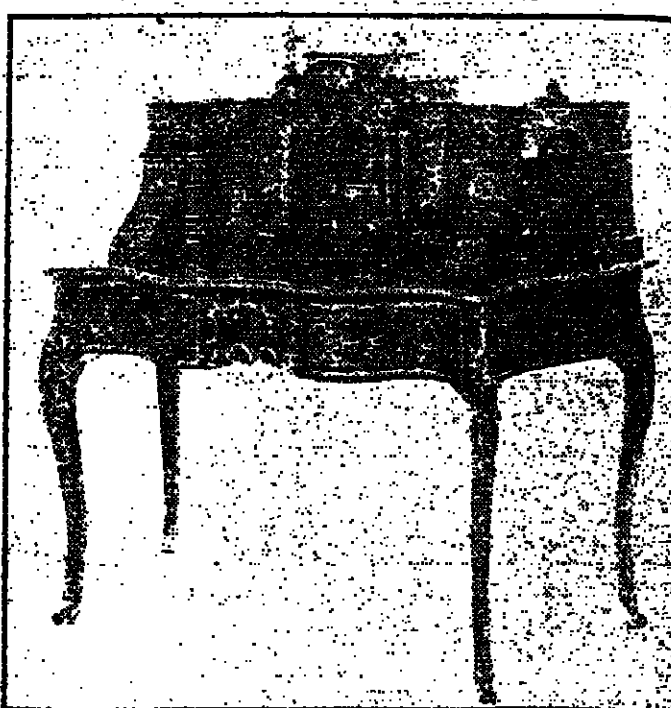
Nor are Mr Peter Walker's abilities fully engaged. There must surely be a role for him, perhaps in the party organisation, now impaired by the absence of the chairman, Lord Thorneycroft, who is seriously ill. Organizational, the Tories have suffered a succession of misfortunes at 32 Smith Square. Among the treasurers, Lord Chelmer has retired, leaving only Mr Alastair McIntyre, for whom Mrs Thatcher must soon find a new partner of suitable standing, an appointment not

easily filled. Sir Richard Webster, Mr Gerald O'Brien and Mr Russell Lewis are no longer present in other departments.

Mrs Thatcher would be well advised to give some personal attention to the Conservative Central Office, constitutionally the political office of the leader of the party, although at times you might not think so.

As for Dr Treasury and his "communications", they could hardly do better than read Sir Ian Gilmour's new book *Inside Right* (Hutchinson, £5.95), a work of the first importance to an understanding of the Tory Party. It is to be published on Monday, and matches his earlier study, *The Body Politic*. Among other things, Sir Ian now discourses on some of the Conservative philosophers—and proves in the process that he himself has entered their ranks. By his own gifts of intellect, insight and application he has joined a most distinguished line of political thinkers. That a book of such quality should be written by a member of her Shadow Cabinet can be nothing but a source of pride to Mrs Thatcher.

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977



## A table worth reserving

Unless some miracle occurs before next Tuesday, a table to English taste of 1848 appeared one of the supreme pieces of furniture to the country will be exported. That is the day on which the review mouth delay in export, ordered by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art for a table *mechannique* sold at Montmorency, runs out. Had any English museum been able to match this piece during the three months, an export licence would have been refused. None has found the money.

On the face of it this is a surprising piece of furniture for the Reviewing Committee to have concerned themselves about. It is an extravagantly ornate nineteenth-century pastiche made up from bits of a German eighteenth-century marquetry cabinet, silver plaques from somewhere else, and cupids formed from baroque pearls from somewhere else again—the whole whipped up into a soufflé by cabinet-maker of the 1830s. Only suited to the extravagant taste of Middle East oil sheikhs, many would say.

But the Reviewing Committee take their decisions on the basis of representations from their expert advisers in this case the Department of Furniture and Woodwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum. In making their case such a department has to grapple with one special problem: their experts working away among the minutiae of furniture history tend to have got well ahead of the general public, both in taste and knowledge.

Since the great revival of interest in the nineteenth century began in the 1930s, William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement have been the focus of attention. In fact, of course, this was only one significant development in the ever unfolding story of furniture and fashion.

The most dominant influence on the entire century, in both pure and applied arts, was antiquarianism or, as it is more slightly referred to, "historicism". Artists, craftsmen and consumers were at one in their fascination with the past and delight in its re-creation or evocation. The influence was still dominant within the Arts and Crafts movement, but here it was concentrated on the evocation of the sturdy functionalism of the past.

Indeed, the strong socialist ethic of the movement meant that fine cabinetmaking was anathema. However, much we may regret the loss of the great cabinetmaker's achievements of the century. Though for the past 70 years or so fashionable tastes have tended to think so. The table *mechannique* from Montmorency is a superb example of a significant development in furniture history, from an earlier era. Between the 1820s and 1840s, at least, the disintegration of old furnishings and incorporation of the pieces in elaborate pastiche was the full of "historical" associations was a respectable and respected branch of cabinetmaking. The

V & A have found an 1823 sale at Christie's entirely devoted to fragments of old furniture which were presumably sold for re-use in this manner.

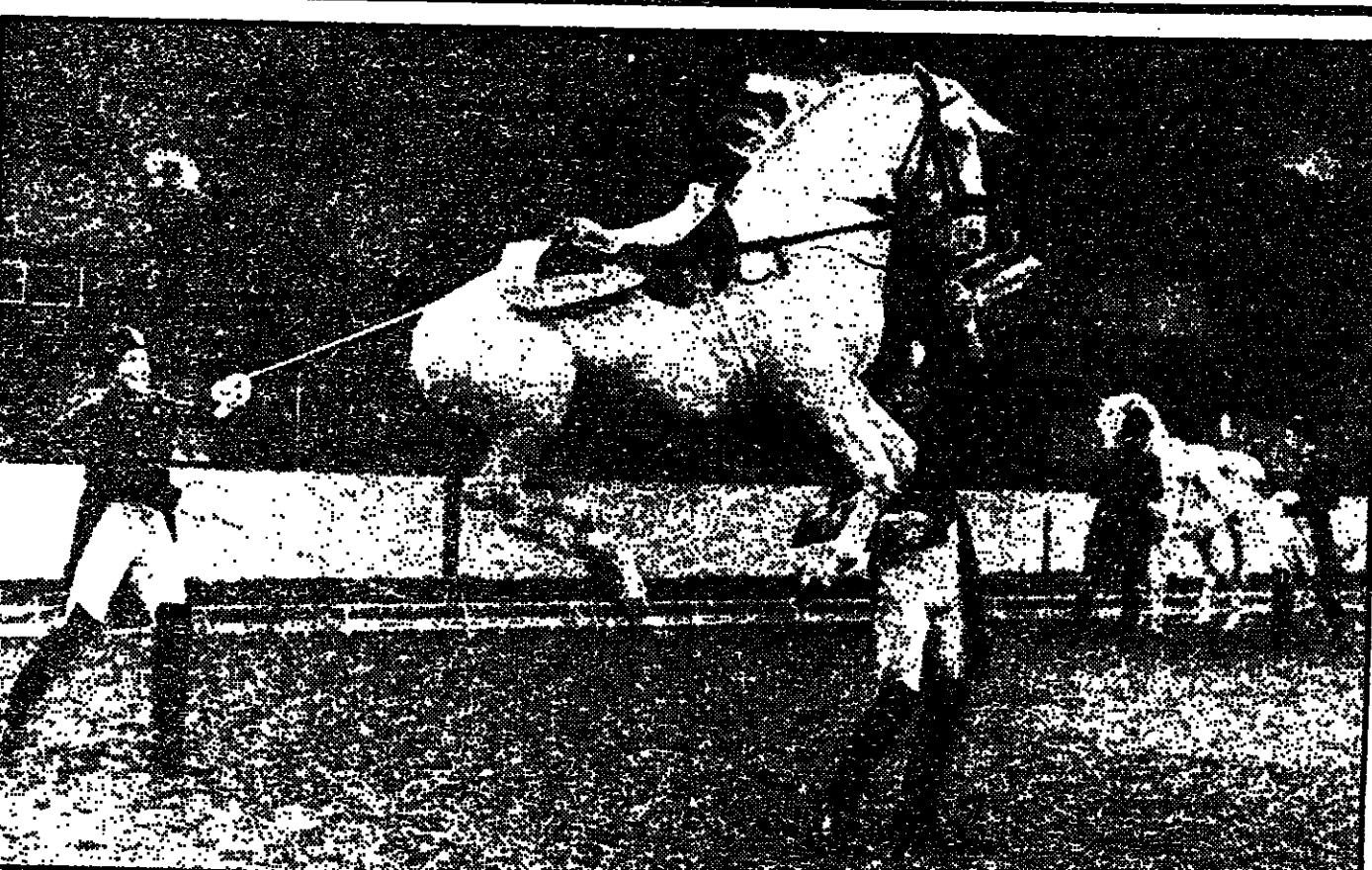
The best documented example in this field is at present one Edward Holmes' dock. He supplied his rich, noble and even royal clients, in line with their antiquarian tastes.

Antiquarian interest was spread over the whole range of historical styles. The "Gothick" style is perhaps the best known with pastiche pieces made up of fragments of old oak carvings; neo-classical pastiches incorporating bits and pieces of classical antiquities are part and parcel of the same approach.

The table *mechannique* belongs to the pastiche style that modern furniture historians have laughingly dubbed "romantic Louis", a nostalgic evocation of the grandeur of the Ancien Régime. They illustrate the taste for "marqueterie", German as well as French, there are other distinguished examples of the use of German panels. And significantly they demonstrate that in the 1830s there were designers, cabinet-makers and marqueters capable of extending or recreating eighteenth-century pieces with supreme skill.

The table was made in England at this time, possibly by Baldock or possibly by John Webb, who seems to have been equally important in the field. It was made for either the first or second Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, the first collector on the grand scale, the second one of the most spectacular bankruptcies of the nineteenth century. As a result of his private extravagance in preparing Stowe for a visit in 1845, all his estates and possessions were sold up. The Stowe sale conducted by Christie's in 1848 lasted 40 days and was the greatest dispersal of works of art of the century. It was here that the table *mechannique* was bought for Montmorency: it was the most expensive piece of furniture in the sale at £246 15s. H. R. Forster's annotated catalogue of the sale records that "the table is a superb piece of cabinetmaking. Its richness is perhaps best conveyed by Sotheby's catalogue: 'Ornate mounted table with elaborate marquetry, partly inlaid with silver, the central cupboard flanked by four Corinthian columns encased in silver gilt, the door set with a finely wrought silver-plaque of the Triumph of Ceres and Bacchus, attributed to Thomas Chippendale (1654-1729) and on each side a pair of baroque pearl and metal Cupids on acate bases.' The *mechannique* part of the table is an arrangement of pure fantasy and springs opening secret drawers.

Geraldine Norman  
Sulgrave Correspondent



## Easy riders with a touch of class

To sit astride a stallion, whether stationary or moving, without falling on one's head is an act of skill and courage. To do so while the beast is hopping forwards while reared on its hind legs might seem an accident of eccentricity, foolhardiness, or supererogation, or all three at once. It is, nevertheless, done on purpose, and called the *courbette*, English curvet. The master horses and riders in the ancient art of equestrian ballet known as *Haut Ecole* arrive in London tonight. Next week they are performing their mystery at the Empire Pool, Wembley, providing a rare opportunity for us to see the most skilful horsemen since old Chiron and his fellow Centaurs kicked their heels around the mythology of Theseus.

They are the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, the only riding academy in the world that still practises classical horsemanship as frozen immortally in marble on the frieze of the Parthenon, described by Napoleon in his treatises on riding.

and rediscovered at the Renaissance. The epithet Spanish is an oddity applied to an old Austrian institution. It comes about because since its foundation more than four centuries ago only the great white Lipizzaner stallions imported from Spain have been trained in *Haut Ecole* at Vienna. They are born dark brown, turn white between the ages of four and 10; and are credited with supererogative virtues from a desire to learn, to courage and vivacity. The breed is said to have sprung originally from Carthage. It was already famous when Caesar was curvetting through Spain.

Another explanation of the Spanish connection is that when the art of classical riding was rediscovered in the fifteenth century, one Heshberg ruled the Austrian Empire and another Habsburg carried on the family business by ruling Spain and Naples. There was family commerce between the two courts in everything from ideas to horses.

The exercises of the high art

of riding were designed to train young nobles to use weapons on horseback and to control a horse in battle. They were also intended to show off the verve, power, and obedience of the Lipizzaners. With their happy talent for preserving the ornaments of their imperial past without the politics or the nostalgia of other former empires, the Austrians have preserved the standards of their riding school into an age when sitting on a horse correctly is no longer an indispensable accomplishment for the ambitious.

The high art of riding is divided into three parts. 1. "Straight forward riding" consists of riding a horse without upsetting his natural balance for your own, for that matter, at uncollected paces along straight lines.

2. "Campaign riding" consists of putting the collected horse through all paces, turns, and movements while maintaining perfect balance.

3. "Haut Ecole" itself consists of putting the horse, reared up on his hind legs

with his haunches deeply bent, through all the paces and jumps as well as the unusual and artificial ones.

It is the last of these classes that is the most spectacular, filling the man who can either take horses or leave them to sit on them if he can avoid it. It includes such alarming extravaganzas as the *capriole*: the horse leaps high in the air and while airborne kicks violently with its rear legs. This

was once, understandably, a useful battle tactic. The prince of horses men who said that there was no secret and close as that between rider and horse had just clung on during an unintended *capriole*.

Dr Kurt Endler, the Austrian ambassador, says: "A country has many ambassadors besides its official diplomats. In Austria we have musical and four-legged equestrian ambassadors; and they do more in a fortnight to put his country on

the map than the wretched official ambassador can hope to do in a year of arduous diplomacy."

Next week the Spanish Riding School brings its ancient and engaging art to London, to demonstrate that horse sense means more than not betting on humans, and that common sense means hanging on tight while the horses are using it.

Philip Howard

## On First Looking into Coleridge's notebooks

Roly-Poly-Coly, wistful my wish that you might have got in with Mister Blake and skinned the Worthy view. Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Never a laugh their daily wont, never a good review: Dorothy Do and William Don't, might have got in with who? Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Gnat's-piss tea by starlight, loathsome lakeside stew; might have got in with Bysshe'n By and kissed a Claire or two. Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Pity the day that, thus forbid, (might have got in with who?), pity for us, pity for you, and pity for Coly, too! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Christopher Logue

## The long-lived Fellows of Cambridge

Professor J. E. Littlewood, who died on September 6 aged 92, was the last surviving Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, to have been elected in the reign of King Edward VII and possibly the last surviving Fellow of any Cambridge college to have been elected.

He was born in 1885, came up to Trinity as a Scholar in 1903 and was elected a Fellow in 1908. He was not, however, the only Fellow of Trinity whose tenure had lasted for more than 60 years.

Professor H. A. Hailwood, who died in October 1974 aged 90, had been elected a Fellow in 1909, just a year later than Littlewood. Hailwood had been President of the Union in 1906. It is an odd coincidence that Littlewood had been the Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics while Hailwood had been the Rouse Ball Professor of English law.

Perhaps it is something in the Fenland air, perhaps it is the even tenor of academic life, that is conducive to longevity among Fellows of Cambridge colleges. The late Lord Adrian, for instance, who died on August 4 aged 87, had been elected a Fellow of Trinity in 1913. He was Master of the college from 1951 to 1963 and Chancellor of the University from 1963 to 1975.

Another Fellow of Trinity who had been elected before the First World War was the Rev F. A. Simpson, who died on February 8, 1974. He had been born in 1833 and elected

a Fellow in 1911. The classical scholar A. E. Housman had been elected at the same time.

Mr Simpson came to Trinity as a history don, but he also served for a time as a don in the Faculty of Divinity. In 1968 he rededicated the college chapel the year that he had first preached there as a young don 57 years earlier. On July 2, 1969, he had a letter published in *The Times* which consisted of the single sentence: "This bellicosity of persons is mighty offensive." More recently, on May 26, 1972, *The Times* carried a letter from him complaining about the similarity of the £1 and £5 notes, which made it difficult for the short-sighted to distinguish them.

His early years at Trinity overlapped the last years of William Aldis Wright (1831-1914), the Shakespearean and classical scholar, who had come up to Trinity in 1859 and been 18th Wrangler in 1854.

Mr Wright became librarian of Trinity in 1863 but was not made a Fellow until 1878, after the removal of the last disabilities of dissenters. (He was the son of a Baptist minister).

The *Dictionary of National Biography* contains the following splendid description of him: "He had occupied the same rooms in Neville's Court since 1865. Although one of the great figures in the university, he took no part later in its politics, and he neither taught nor lectured. Few undergraduates ventured to speak to

him, and even the younger Fellows of his college were kept at a distance by the austere precision of his manner."

Mr Wright had been the secretary of the Old Testament revision committee. The DNB records that of the 794 meetings from June 1870, to May, 1885, he attended 793.

The late Bertrand Russell, who died in 1970, was first elected a Fellow of Trinity as long ago as 1895, but he had been deprived of his Fellowship during the First World War and re-elected in 1947. At the time of his death he may well have been the last surviving Fellow of an Oxford or Cambridge college to have been elected in the reign of Queen Victoria.

The observant wanderer in Cambridge will come across many tributes to men who could boast a long connexion with their college. A memorial stone near the main gate of King's College records that Septimus Philpotts was a Fellow for 65 years. He was born in 1842 and was a Fellow from 1864 until his death in 1929.

He was a school master for many years. Cecil Warburton, a botanist, who was described as the University's oldest member when he celebrated his 104th birthday in 1958, had been a don for 65 years.

In Caius College is a memorial to B. H. Drury (1817-1902) whose connexion with the college as scholar and Fellow extended over 66 years.

Jesus College has a memorial to Henry Arthur Morgan, who, having loved this College well and served it faithfully during 63 years when he was its inmate as Student, Fellow, tutor and Master, rested from his labours September 3, 1913. It is interesting that Morgan, the thirty-third Master of Jesus, was only an undergraduate at the college.

On the other side of Cambridge, in the chapel of Pembroke College, can be seen a stone in the floor bearing the initials E.H.M. and the dates 1874-1953. It is a memorial to Sir Ellis Minns, who went up to Pembroke as a scholar in 1893. According to his obituary in *The Times* of June 15, 1953, "it was a source of pride to him that he occupied the same rooms in Old Court for almost 60 years—from the day he first came into residence until his death."

Another Master of Jesus College, Arthur Gray, who wrote the history of the college, was born in 1852 and entered the college as an undergraduate in 1870. He became a Fellow in 1875, a tutor in 1885, and died in April, 1940, so that his connexion with the college spanned 70 years all but a few months. He was the last Master of the college to hold office for life. He is said to have smoked cigarettes all day long and to have worked even on the day of his death, at the age of 87.

Support for the theory that it is the quality of university life rather than the climate that is conducive of longevity can be found in Oxford, where the last of the long-lived was far removed from Fenland. Just as Minns had occupied the same rooms at Pembroke for almost 60 years, H. W. Garrod, who was elected a Fellow of Merton College in 1901 and became a Professor of Poetry at Oxford from 1923 to 1928, occupied the same rooms until his death in December, 1960. Garrod, like Minns, was a classical scholar.

The famous Dr William Archibald Spooner, who was born in 1844, went up to New College as a scholar in 1862. He too was a classicist. He was a Fellow from 1867 to 1903. Warden from 1903 to 1924, and an honorary Fellow from 1924 until his death in 1930, so that his connexion with the college extended over a period of 66 years. His predecessor, the Rev James Edward Sewell, who was born on Christmas Day in the year 1810, went up to New College from Winchester and became a Fellow in 1832. He became a Fellow in 1839 and was Warden from 1860 until his death in January 1903, at the age of 92. His connexion with the college had lasted for well over 70 years.

But what about the famous Dr Routh of Magdalen College? Like Gray of Jesus in Cambridge, he was in full possession of his mental faculties when he died, on

December 22, 1854, but unlike Gray he was then in his hundredth year. It was said that he could walk six miles in his ninety-fourth year, which suggests that his physical faculties too were remarkably well preserved.

Martin Joseph Routh was born in September 1755 and became a Don at Magdalen in July 1771. He was elected a Fellow four years later and was President of the college from April 1791 until his death, so that he had been connected with the college in one capacity or another for well over 63 years.

Because of Routh's great age, numerous stories are told about him. It is said, for instance, that in his youth he had seen Dr Johnson shambling up the steps of University College in Oxford. What is perhaps even more remarkable is that the mother of a friend of his had met King Charles the Second walking. His spaniards round the parks relief Parliament had fled to Oxford to escape the plague in London—in the year 1665.

Henry Button

● The author of yesterday's article, "An American at Brighton", was R. W. Apple Jr., Bureau chief of the London Office of The New York Times.

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## MRS GANDHI AND MR BHUTTO

Both India and Pakistan have been absorbed and confused this year by the trials of their evolving democratic politics. Until recently India's experience in holding fair and orderly elections was much the greater; Pakistan's experience was more fragmentary and more afflicted by internal division. Yet now the parallels seem close. Events before this year's election in each country had made of it a crucial test. India's convincing result was a victory for democratic freedom and also an end to the long degenerating rule of the Congress Party, not least it seemed a repudiation of Mrs Gandhi's personal leadership.

In Pakistan the size of Mr Bhutto's majority drew immediate cries of foul from the opposition alliance followed by strong support for demonstrations of protest in all Pakistan's towns as to deny Mr Bhutto's claim to victory.

General Zia's intervention in July, with a promise of fair elections, impartially conducted, was thus welcomed.

In neither country has the present outcome been happy. In both the opposition has proved a disappointment, in power in India, thwarted in Pakistan. The result has been uncertainty and indecision in both countries with no single party or political leader able to find a way through the current confusion. And at this point the deposed leaders Mrs Gandhi and Mr Bhutto both find themselves subject to legal action which they and their supporters claim to be a vendetta against them on the part of their political opponents.

More than even such crises the political gulf that divides each country is exposed. On the one hand is the mass of

illiterate peasants, insulated from national concerns, cut off from city life, yet capable of their voting of giving victory to, or of dethroning, any national leader. Mrs Gandhi had her triumph in 1971, then her rejection last March. Mr Bhutto ruled confidently until this year but fearing for his majority in March tried to secure it by rigging many seats. Both leaders then suffered a summer of discontent. Both now find the tide of support to have turned once again, with the asset of their supposed martyrdom. Both look to the peasant masses for their support.

On the other side of the gulf are the educated, politically conscious people of the towns. They see political parties born, political hopes raised or dashed; above all they see how political life is conducted and how it distributes its patronage, collects its dues, and manipulates power. By contrast the peasant cares about the annual rainfall, the price he gets for his grain and such charisma as a nationally known figure may seem to dispense. The first-hand experience of political life that affects the town matters little in the village where allegations of corruption or misuse of power are unlikely to dent the repute of the all-powerful leader. But what can the towns do if such leaders can hold a mass vote, irrespective of the charges made against them and their party? Such is the argument over "accountability" which now exercises India and Pakistan.

Excursions into the business world that go party funds or disappear into other channels; tough techniques used to

frighten away or extinguish opposition; the power exercised by patronage and pressures exerted in countless ways—these all leave scars on political life. Mr Bhutto's resort to such techniques has sometimes been more blatant; in India Congress has been longer in power and contrives matters more smoothly. All these are issues of concern to the politically involved and they are not to be eradicated simply by a regular process of national elections. The accountability of the politicians matters if corruption is to be reduced, violence for political ends is to be curbed and responsible behaviour in public life is to be encouraged.

In India it is being asked if the action taken against Mrs Gandhi is prudent if the only result is to strengthen her political following and in the process to reflect on the Janata Party that has lost so much ground already since it came to power. In Pakistan Mr Bhutto has been exploiting the allegations made against him and rallying mass support so as to imply that General Zia is conducting a campaign against him. Prudent or imprudent in the case of the leaders, the issue of political behaviour is of moment to political progress in each country. In both at least one hope may be registered. In spite of allegations of a vendetta, or of appointments to the bench that have seemed at times to be politically motivated, or of allegations whispered of judges being suborned, the reputation of the judiciary still stands high and the responsibility of the judicial function preserves its own inherent potency.

## DR OWEN'S OPTIMISM

Dr Owen's remarkably confident report to the Labour Party conference that there will be a cease-fire in Rhodesia in a "few weeks" implies that Mr Ian Smith is in the process of surrendering unconditionally. It suggests that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe are now reconciled to the Anglo-American plan as set out in the White Paper, and so are going to call off the guerrilla offensive anticipated in November when conditions become favourable. It presumes that Mr Smith's negotiations for an internal solution have collapsed and that he sees no alternative but quietly to hand over to Lord Carver to arrange elections in which the leaders of Zanu and Zapu will peacefully contest the Zimbabwe leadership with Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Sithole.

Staff arrangements are nearly complete. Lord Carver's adjutants have been named, and the United Nations has nominated General Chand as its representative, though he has yet formally to accept before consulting with the British interim administration. A few not unimportant preliminaries remain. Presumably they are in train behind the scenes.

In the first place Mr Smith must soon begin to tell his

electorate what he is arranging, irrespective of electoral statements. There is no indication yet whether he will, or when. His meeting with President Kaunda, arranged through Mr Rowland of Louhro, did not apparently delight the Foreign Office, but perhaps was intended to bring Mr Nkomo, as the moderate leader favoured by President Kaunda, into a working relationship with the other black leaders. If Mr Smith could do that, he could tell his people that he had contrived a hand-over to a moderate African regime, promising them all the safeguards printed in the White Paper. It is not only Mr Smith who is yielding to Dr Owen, but the entire white power structure.

Before it does, it will still want to know the interim security arrangements. The White Paper says the army of Zimbabwe is to be "based on" the guerrillas. This may be rhetoric, intended to cover an interim force containing few guerrillas and the bulk of what the Foreign Office is beginning rather ominously to dismiss as "Smith's army". In fact there is no other army. But African ambitions are whetted by rhetoric. The Patriotic Front may expect the rhetoric to be honoured during the next "few weeks" to a degree that Lord Carver and General Chand, as

practical men, may find inconvenient.

As yet they have no military commander. No decision has been taken on the size, composition, or working orders of the planned United Nations force, nor any indication of the use—the inevitable use—to be made of "Smith's army". United Nations troops will not undertake a combat role: their use is a sort of political traffic police. They defend themselves but afford others little or no security. The existing forces, black and white, under new command, alone can do so. Certainly they cannot be ordered to pile arms and walk away—that did not happen in Mozambique, as President Machel knows. If they are used, they must be given a future and careers. To fail to grasp this issue is to risk the very inter-African civil war of which the mass of black—even more than white—Rhodesians, are so apprehensive.

There would seem to be a lot to do in the next "few weeks" before the cease-fire. Dr Owen and the Foreign Office will do well to realize that their task, if they have got so far so successfully, is to make the last act of Mr Smith and his people as easy as possible. They may, as Dr Owen implies, be desperate and cornered, but they are still in control. It is a delicate moment.

## LABOUR'S EUROSOCIALISM

The 1977 Labour Conference may perhaps be remembered as the occasion when the Labour Party discovered Europe. Not only was a motion calling for Britain's withdrawal from the European Community decisively rejected; more important, perhaps, in the long run was the acknowledgement that Europe is not just a common market that one has to be for or against, but an area of the world to which this country for better or worse belongs, and in whose affairs it behaves as to take an interest. This acknowledgement showed itself in various ways. One was the statement from the National Executive that "our priority... would be to work with the European Left—to create, within Europe, the climate and conditions needed for the development of socialism in each of the member states"—though, happily, neither the NEC nor the conference could yet bring themselves to follow the logic of this priority to the point of accepting a common manifesto with other European socialist parties for direct elections to the European parliament.

Another sign was to be found in the list of invited representatives and observers. M François

Mitterrand's appearance as guest of honour was not strictly an innovation, since the last three annual conferences have been addressed by the leaders of "fraternal" European parties. Yet Herr Schmidt's visit in 1974 was essentially in the context of the Common Market debate, while Dr Soares and Señor Gonzalez were essentially being congratulated on, and encouraged in, their role in helping their respective countries through the difficult passage from dictatorship to democracy. Mitterrand, by contrast, was invited as a socialist leader (and, incidentally, a strongly pro-European one) from a major European country with a good chance of finding himself in power next year and thus becoming a potential partner in the effort to create "the climate and conditions needed for the development of socialism". It is hardly the Labour Party's fault if his chances now look rather less good than they did at the time when the invitation was issued.

But no less significant was the invitation to the leaders of the French, Italian and Spanish Communist Parties to attend as observers, and the evident interest which the presence of senior members of those parties

(in the Spanish case, Señor Carrillo in person) generated in the corridors of the conference. The phenomenon of "Eurocommunism" has aroused the most varied reactions in the Labour Party as elsewhere, but clearly has at least the merit of arousing serious interest in the internal politics of the Latin European countries.

Not everyone was happy about these invitations, but there was nothing really scandalous about them, for they were cleared in each case with the Socialist Parties of the country concerned, all of which maintain polite relations with their local communists and invite them as observers to their own congresses. Much harder to justify is the presence of observers from Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania. Their presence was unnecessary, since the regimes they control were in any case represented by diplomatic observers. It was also politically inappropriate, since those parties in their own countries practise a kind of "democracy" very different from the one the Labour Party believes in. It would surely have been right to consult democratic socialists from those countries too before issuing the invitations.

## Child destruction

From Dr C. B. Goodhart  
Sir, Correcting a statement attributed to you (September 26) to the Department of Health and Social Security, their Principal Assistant Solicitor (September 29) rightly observes that the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929 "in no way affects the duty to take the measures required to preserve the life of a child who has been born and is capable of sustaining life, whatever the circumstances of delivery or the length of gestation". But there is a further point needing clarification. The 1929

Act makes it the criminal offence of "child destruction" to destroy the life of a viable child before it has an independent existence, unless this is done "in good faith for the purpose only of preserving the life of the mother", and Mr Knopel agrees that this is so regardless of gestation length. It is, however, the "circumstances of delivery" that it is the victim of an intentional procurement, then it would seem that the duty to take the measures necessary to preserve the life of the child afterwards would not provide a sufficient defence against any charge

of child destruction or manslaughter.

After all, if you run over someone in your car, you certainly have a duty then to take any measures necessary to preserve the life of your victim, though to have done everything possible in that respect by no means relieves you of criminal or civil responsibility for death or injury resulting from your reckless driving in the first place.

Yours, etc.  
C. B. GOODHART,  
Gonville and Caius College,  
Cambridge.  
September 29.

## Building ships for Poland

From Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin  
Sir, We in British Shipbuilders regard British shipbuilders as our essential partners who, together with the Royal Navy, support a maritime trading interest on which, to a higher degree than any other country, Britain's prosperity depends. It would, therefore, like to ally the concern expressed by Mr David H. Gault in his letter which you published on October 6 by stating the following facts:

(a) The ships concerned are to be specially designed for the Polish Baltic trade.  
(b) Polska Zegluga Morska, the Polish company involved, intends to use them for cargoes which have been and will continue to be, confined exclusively to Polish flag ships.  
(c) The new ships will largely be replacement tonnage.  
(d) The existing jobs of British shipbuilders will not be affected.

(e) Far from foreign shipbuilders being "reticent on principle about this business we will have won it against their very strong competition."  
(f) British Shipbuilders are fully empowered and capable of entering into a similar commercial arrangement with any British shipowner.

We in British Shipbuilders fully acknowledge the right of British shipbuilders to build wherever they can get the best offers—indeed most of Mr Gault's ships were built abroad and six ships for a British owner are now being built in Poland. It is our aim to improve the competitiveness of our offers so as naturally to attract more business from our British shipowning friends.

Yours faithfully,  
A. T. F. GRIFFIN, Chairman,  
British Shipbuilders,  
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,  
October 7.

## Radical thought

From Professor John Westergaard  
Sir, Miss Pitt (October 6) hits the nail squarely on the head. Professor Halmos and others (October 5) disclaim any intention on Professor Gould's and their part to advocate "illiberal means to cope with illiberality" and the stated purpose of the Gould report is to encourage intellectual rebuttal of "the Radical position". But it is hard to see how this legitimate intention can be advanced by Appendix III of the report. That Appendix comprises, in the main, a list of names—those of people who have consented to speak at academic meetings sponsored by the Communist Party and groups linked to it.

What purpose is this to serve? If it implies that the named are all by the intellectual proprieties, errors and confusions which the report ascribes to "the Radical position", listing names in no way proves the point. If it implies that those named all support the Communist Party, the implication is false and, above all, again irrelevant. If the intention is to persuade academic authorities responsible for appointments and promotions to proceed with special caution when considering candidates named in the list, it is certainly to be encouraged. "Illiberal means". Whatever Professor Gould's motives, the effect must be to suggest guilt by association.

Yours truly,  
JOHN WESTERGAARD,  
University of Sheffield,  
Department of Sociological Studies,  
October 6.

From Professor John Griffith  
Sir, Perhaps a concrete example will explain why some of us consider the techniques adopted by the Gould report to be comparable to those of Senator McCarthy. First some general allegations; then the general smear.

Radical minorities, says the report, are "dedicated political men and women whose whole [the report's emphasis] lives centre upon political ends... they are adept at building up a wide variety of fronts for their own ends, a variety of Front organizations [e.g. 'Academic Freedom']... which they adopt to cover and protect their own activities. As an example... the report cites the Council for Academic Freedom and Democracy (CAFD). These allegations are unsupported, unsupported and false. That is McCarthyism.

CAFD is a body of several hundred members open to anyone who wishes to join with an elective executive committee of 22. Over the years we have taken up hundreds of cases of men and women in academic life who have been unfairly treated. In the great majority of cases I, as honorary secretary, do not know and in no cases do I inquire what political views these persons hold.

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## Productivity: the Portbury example

From Mr Leonard Griffiths

Sir, The facts about overmanning and restrictive practices in British industry are too well known for anyone to challenge the argument propounded by Mr Rees-Mogg in his article (*The Times*, October 5). Yet the prospect of an article, even in *The Times*, arousing passionate public debate on this subject does seem slim when a huge physical advertisement covering 70 acres fails to arouse a flicker of interest.

Witness the case of the new Portbury dock at Arromouth. The new dock is a magnificent example of British building skill and ingenuity. There is 45 feet of water where there was previously only mud, the largest lock in the kingdom, facilities for containers and roll-on roll-off traffic, a massive amount of space for cargo handling, and berths for three 70,000-tonne vessels at any one time (compared with 35,000 tonnes maximum at the old dock). All this built at a cost to public funds of £37m.

Although the new dock was completed months ago it remains deserted and idle and not a single vessel passes through the lock. If the dock was worked and manned at a level appropriate to the new facilities everybody would benefit, importers, exporters, shippers, hauliers, the consumer and by no means least the dockers who could, if they chose, have earnings comparable with the dockers at Rotterdam.

The dockers refuse to work the new dock and it will remain idle until agreement is reached but evidence of protest there is none. Mr. Leonard Griffiths, Chairman, British Shipbuilders, 12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1, October 7.

Yours sincerely,  
LEONARD GRIFFITHS,  
Quicker House,  
Everleigh,  
Wiltshire,  
October 6.

From Dr K. L. Jones

Sir, The second of Mr Rees-Mogg's articles on industrial productivity in Britain (October 5) reinforces the diagnosis for our economic ills presented in his first article (September 26) by specifically condemning the trade unions as the cause of low productivity in this country. Mr Rees-Mogg's contributions are damaging and dangerous because the press in the columns of a respected and influential newspaper a preconceived notion of the cause of our country's problems and, by specious argument and dubious statistics justify that preconceived notion. The tactic is obviously to give sober form and authority to the work of the "options" of such as Sir Keith Joseph who are currently seeking simplistically to blame Britain's ills on the deep-rooted structural problems of post-imperial Britain, the oldest industrial economy in the world.

In dealing with the steel industry, for example, Mr Rees-Mogg ignores altogether the derelict state in which the industry was left at the time of nationalization by the unrepentant private employers with no attempt being made to invest in new plant after the unacceptably profitable period of the 1950s. He further ignores the fact that when, with the public ownership of the industry, that investment did come, it came in the form of the British Steel Corporation's ill conceived 1970 Year Development Scheme, 1972, which committed the industry's future solely to the

Japanese model without a flexible approach and a reference to the prevailing British conditions, and in so doing laid the basis for a lot of the industry's present ills.

Mr Rees-Mogg is least helpful when writing of the Japanese steel industry. He repeats glib assertions about Japanese manning levels without reminding his readers that the Japanese industry employs exclusively contractors for maintenance work so that their manning levels do not include figures for a permanent craft labour force. More seriously, he ignores the fact that Japanese steel production workers are, as a matter of company policy, often of high school educational standard (rather below our own GCE A level) with the result that a continuous casting plant in Japan may typically have a shift manning of nine operators whereas the comparable plant in Britain has a shift manning of seven operators.

The difference lies in the fact that the Japanese plant does not have the layers of supervisory and managerial grades above the production workers who may perform such duties and certain maintenance tasks themselves. But such a detailed investigation forms no part of Mr Rees-Mogg's arguments.

When speaking of the British steel industry Mr Rees-Mogg fails to say that all new plant commissioned by the BSC is invariably manned, with full trade union cooperation, to the best European and Japanese specifications. Often, however, such plant needs additional labour after a year or so's operation because it has been found to be impossible to run efficiently on the theoretical levels imposed by an array of managers on the union negotiators. Anyone who knows the steel industry will know that fresh manpower has had to be injected into the finishing end of the record breaking Thrummer Bar Mill, Rotherham, whose productivity Eric Varley complimented, to enable that mill to be able to ship out its record breaking tonnages effectively.

It is a cold fact that most new steel plants in the past five years have had to be remanned rather than demanned.

But Mr Rees-Mogg is not interested in these matters, for he is presenting polemic as reasoned argument. He pretends to repeat manning statistics in the past five years has his productivity to sell" and then to equate productivity with redundancy, as if this sterile prescription were what was needed by our troubled economy. Increased productivity will result only when the steel industry is managed efficiently at all levels with full participation in decision taking by the workforce. Furthermore, such a participation in decision taking will only be truly meaningful in the framework of a nationally planned economy with governments wholly committed to making the public corporations such as steel work efficiently and well.

British governments are fortunate in having the oldest and most sophisticated organized working class in the world; they should display an equal measure of sophistication and ignore the stale formulas that Mr Rees-Mogg offers and put incentive and not redundancy into our industrial life.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH LLOYD JONES,  
Divisional Organizer,  
Iron and Steel Trades Confederation,  
Rotherham,  
41 St Margaret Avenue,  
Sheffield,  
October 5.

On September 27 your Arts

Reporter said that it had been announced that the Department of Education and Science "releases donations totalling £50,000 which were dependent on matching exchequer grants". Presumably the Minister had changed his mind. Your reporter's article is a pity, for Mr Dennis Farr, the city gallery director, as saying: "The whole thing is now becoming much more manageable. The city authorities would certainly step in and aid a heroic operation."

There cannot be a better illustration of the need for "the promotion to the Cabinet of the Minister responsible for the arts, supported by a strengthened and united permanent" as in position to discuss them (problems of the arts) directly with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in person". I am quoting Lord Cotesloe, but the italics are mine.

There could not be a more important picture remaining in our "heritage". A signed artwork by Giovanni Bellini, dated 1505: there is nothing like it outside Italy. The comparable picture is Bellini's much larger *Fest of Gods*, formerly in a British collection, now, in spite of the National Gallery's efforts to save it (and more than half promises from the British Treasury) in the American National Gallery.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP HENDY,  
Whistlers Barn,  
Great Hasleley,  
Oxford,  
October 3.

## Settling the air dispute

From Captain R. W. Pullan

Sir, At this moment I am over the southern tip of Greenland, flying between Chicago and London in a Boeing 747, en route to latitude 62 north and longitude 10 west thence via Stornoway to London. A glance at a globe will illustrate the unnecessary distance being flown.

Some 36 hours ago I was flying from London to Chicago at a latitude of 51 north in the teeth of the prevailing westerly jet stream. Those familiar with North Atlantic operations, and the normal weather patterns, will appreciate that this is not how the Atlantic should be flown.

This situation is a result of the Air Traffic Control assistants dispute in the United Kingdom. Operational considerations, of track and height selection no longer prevail. Fixed tracks are in operation and I am instructed what track and height to fly and at what time I must enter the system. This in turn determines the delayed departure time.

The consequences of this policy are serious. Outbound to Chicago, 100 knot headwinds cost an extra 40 minutes flying time and the burning of some 1,750 gallons of extra fuel. The eastbound leg this morning, also being flown at an uneconomic height, is taking some 40 minutes longer than necessary and consuming over 2,000 gallons of extra fuel. This is happening night and day to virtually every aircraft operating across the North Atlantic. The cost of this exercise, in fuel, time, and wear, is enormous.

The economic question whether to pay 850 ATC assistants what is apparently their negotiated due, or to impose these financial penalties upon the airlines, and ultimately the fare paying public, is the arithmetic of madness. Not the least affected is British Airways. A classic case of robbing both Peter and Paul.

The Government can flex their political brawn in this case. If it were British Leyland, they would be about to make a contented money, with yet another meaningless addendum.

Is it not time that some simple common sense was displayed at high level? Yours sincerely,  
R. W. PULLAN,  
As from  
14 Broad Lane,  
Hampton,  
Middlesex,  
07.25 GMT,  
October 1.

## Future of Ulster

From the Roman Catholic Bishop in West London

Sir, The views and policy of the new Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, the official leader of the Roman Catholic community in Ireland North and South of the border, are of some consequence for the future of Northern Ireland. I attended Mr O'Fees installation as Archbishop last Sunday and heard the firm and moving words that he concluded his address. They deserve, I think, to be put on record.

"The representatives of the whole Irish people, North and South, Protestant and Catholic, are linked together in fraternal affection around the altar today, if we could only preserve it tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after. I have taken as my episcopal motto a few simple words from the psalmist: *Fraternus in unum*. 'How good, how delightful it is to live together like brothers.' Brothers love, peace, harmony, reconciliation, mutual forgiveness, an end to past dissensions and a new beginning in the fuller practice of justice and charity towards all, these will be the objectives of all my work in Armagh, whether it last for a year or a day, or tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after."

"I want to get to know my Protestant fellow Ulstermen as well. They will find me, I think, a man not too different from themselves, simple in tastes, blunt in speech, hearty in laughter—one who fully appreciates the great contribution they have made to this province, who shares with them one love of his native Ulster, who has been saddened by the terrible tragedies which many of their families have suffered in recent years, who understands their fears and reaches out his hand for their friendship."

Yours faithfully,  
T. G. MAHON, mhm,  
Bishop in West London,  
72 Dukes Avenue,  
Chiswick, W4,  
October 7.

## Year of the mouse

From Mr Tom Hey

Sir, This must be the Year of the Mouse too, at least in our corner of England. Never before in 40 years of home food growing have I had my bean crop chewed to bits by mice, cabbages disheartened, peas punctured (mice, not the usual jays), apples gouged, tomatoes lacerated... but why go on with the dismal tale.

I recently admired in Salt Lake City the beautiful statue of a gull which the Mormons erected in tribute to the birds that saved their crops from a pest in the crucial pioneer days. Well, a kestrel has certainly turned up in the garden here for the first time—a sure indication of lavish mice-meals. There'll be no statue: it came too late to save our crops.

Yours etc,  
TOM HEY,  
Groms Cottage,  
Haslemere,  
Surrey.

## Recognizing the Vatican

From Mr R. J. Midwinter

Sir, Has the Vatican recognized itself since the Second Vatican Council? Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MIDWINTER,  
14 Frobiher Gardens,  
Boxgrove Park,  
Guildford,  
Surrey.

## Illustrations to Tolkien

From Mr John Letts

Sir, May we, please, get the record straight on the drawings you reproduced today (October 6) from *The Folio Society's* edition of *The Lord of the Rings*?

As any reader will see, the title page carries the wording "Illustrations by Ingahild Grahnmer: drawn by Eric Fraser". The facts are that the late Professor Tolkien had rejected the work of many professional illustrators who had wanted to tackle this task. Some six years ago, Queen Margaret drew a set of illustrations, out of private enthusiasm, and, with no thought of publication, sent them to Tolkien. Somewhat unexpectedly, in view of his dislike of the many illustration samples he had previously rejected, he approved these designs warmly.

After his death, they were found among his files; and his literary heirs suggested that they, too, would approve their use in the new

illustrated edition *The Folio Society* was already planning. Due to the pressure of time, Queen Margaret was not able to adapt her original designs to the required format. However, she kindly agreed to collaborate with Eric Fraser on the project, providing that, and as he earned, went to The Queen Margaret and Prius Henrik Fund, and the work was published under a pseudonym, so that it would be sold by The Folio Society—as it has been for three months—entirely on its own merits.

Obviously we are sorry that the anonymity has been broken. But we imagine that the pseudonymous Ingahild Grahnmer would also be sorry that you have published a reproduction from this edition which gives no credit either to Eric Fraser, or to the publishers who put together this unusual and interesting project.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN LETTS, Director,  
The Folio Society Ltd,  
202 Great Suffolk Street, SE1,  
October 6.

## Forestry rents

From Mrs C. A. Compton

Sir, Where in the world can land still be rented for 121 pence per acre per year. The answer is here in England.

Many patriotic Englishmen gave up visible land to the Forestry Commission on long leases in the 1920s and receive virtually nil for their generosity. Is there not now a moral case for a review of this situation?

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE COMPTON,  
12 South Hill Park, NW3.















# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

فكرنا من الامل

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

### Cuts in savings and spending emphasize strain on pay policy

By David Blake

Living standards fell by about 2 per cent in the second quarter of this year, according to official figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Office.

Personal disposable income reached its lowest level for four years, emphasizing the strains placed on the Government's attempt to negotiate a new phase of incomes policy.

The strain was borne almost equally by consumer spending and savings. Consumer spending fell by about 1 per cent from the previous quarter, while the proportion of disposable income which was saved fell to 13.5 per cent from 14.4.

The savings ratio does more than indicate the extent to which people have to cut back on their savings to keep up living standards. It has come to be regarded as giving a crude rule-of-thumb guide to the extent to which people feel the need to put money aside to deal with future rising prices and the threat of unemployment.

Interpreting the figures is made more difficult by the fact that the CSO has had to drastically revise its estimates of what was happening last year and at the beginning of 1977.

The picture to emerge suggests that income in current terms, which makes no allowance for rising prices, was much higher at the beginning of this year than the CSO figures in July suggested. At that time it seemed as if real post-tax incomes had fallen by 2 per cent in the first quarter.

It now emerges that there was hardly any change at all.

Since the level of consumer spending has not been revised much, all of this extra personal income clearly went into saving.

The result of the adjustment is that whereas it had earlier been thought that the savings ratio in the last quarter of 1976 was 12.1 per cent, with a small rise to 12.6 per cent in the first quarter of this year, we now know that the figures were much higher.

In the final quarter of 1976 the new estimate has the savings ratio at 13.3 per cent, while in the first quarter of this year it went up to 14.4 per cent. The fall in the second quarter, if it is confirmed, still leaves the savings ratio at a higher level than any yearly average in the post-war period except for the years since 1974.

People stepping up the proportion of their income which they save at a time when rising prices make all savings likely to lead to a loss of the purchasing power has been a characteristic of most western economies during this recession. It has clearly deepened the recession by leading individuals to spend a smaller proportion of incomes which were already falling.

Predicting what will happen to the savings ratio is even more difficult than estimating what it has been in the recent past, but the Government is hoping that it will fall as confidence returns and that with this fall will come a new impetus to economic recovery.

Real income is also expected to rise. In the second quarter tax cuts only just balanced increases in National Insurance contributions. The conditional Budget tax cuts take effect in the third quarter, and more concessions are expected in November.

### Higher prime rates revive the dollar

By David Blake

The dollar fell again yesterday in most world markets, but picked up towards the end of the day as news of the increase in American prime rates came through.

Against sterling it actually ended the day stronger than it had been on Thursday, after experiencing week start. The closing rate was \$1.7583 to the pound, compared with \$1.7597 at the end of business on Thursday.

The dollar began weakly everywhere in what seems to be a bearish trend. At the opening of business the pound went up to around \$1.7510, with Bank of England support needed to stop it rising even further.

Later in the day demand for sterling eased, however, with the authorities not being nervous during the afternoon. The pound's effective rate fell to 62.3 per cent of the level in 1971, a drop of 0.1 percentage points.

The strongest currency of the day was the Swiss franc, which has been leading the European market against the dollar all through the week.

It is now almost on a par with the Deutsche mark, and most dealers expect it to overtake the German currency very soon.

The yen also advanced from its Thursday level, but at the close it was below the day's best.

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### Unexpected drop in US jobless to 6.9 pc

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Oct 7

Unemployment in the United States fell to 6.9 per cent last month from 7.1 per cent in August.

Mr Julius Shiskin, Commissioner for Labour Statistics, commented that "the economy is demonstrating an absolutely fantastic capacity for creating jobs when manufacturing is sluggish".

On Wall Street the improved employment figures overshadowed announcements by dozens of banks that they are raising their prime commercial lending rates to 7 1/2 per cent from 7 1/4.

The increases were expected after a record general upward trend of other short-term interest rates, but the improvement in the employment situation came as a surprise to many economists and bankers.

Mr Shiskin told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress today that the decline indicated the continuation of the economic recovery. In the last month the number of unemployed fell by 100,000 to 6.8 million, while employment rose by 320,000 to 91.1 million.

The latest figures tend to lend support to the views of the Carter Administration and the Federal Reserve Board that economic recovery is continuing and concern about a recession ahead is unjustified. It is most unlikely, for example, that the Fed will consider easing of money policies at this time because of fears of too sharp a slowdown in the nation's economic growth rate.

The prime rate rises are a reaction to recent Fed actions, and for the next week or two it seems likely that there will be some stability in money market rates. The most recent money supply data, showing a modest decline in the money stock, suggests that the Fed will try to hold rates steady for a while.

The Fed itself indicated this intention today when it moved to stabilize the rate for federal funds at 6 1/2 per cent.

Citibank, as expected, announced its prime rate increase punctually at 10 o'clock this morning. In the next 90 minutes similar prime rate increase announcements were made by banks in New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Atlanta and Houston.

By the time bankers reached their offices on the West Coast the new level had become firmly established in most parts of the country. Leading California banks later announced that they too were raising their rates to 7 1/2 per cent.

Despite the encouraging employment figures there are still fears about a further slowdown in economic growth. The tighter Fed policies of recent weeks are seen by some analysts as dampening both business and consumer spending.

In addition, a further negative indicator came today with the publication of a consumer confidence survey, which showed a small, but significant, further decline in confidence in recent months.

### Severe censure over shares deal

By Ray Maughan

The Panel on Take-Overs and Mergers has severely censured Mr Peter Brown, director of Portfolio Management. It reached the conclusion "that Mr Brown was aware that an offer from Rascal Electronics was in contemplation when he made his purchase of 10,000 Ultra Electronic shares on February 17 this year".

A statement from the Panel published yesterday revealed that Mr Gerald Kelly, a director of the stockbroker firm of Rowe Rudd, had agreed with Rascal to offer about 85p per share to substantial Ultra shareholders "with an undertaking to pay later any higher amount offered in a subsequent successful Rascal bid for Ultra".

This offer, the Panel ruled, was in breach of rule 26 of the City code which prohibits purchases of an offeree company by selected shareholders during an offer, or where one is reasonably in contemplation, with favourable conditions that are not extended to all shareholders. Further, the rule prohibits any "topping up" clause in the sale of shares either before or during an offer period.

The executive of the Panel ruled that Rowe Rudd, having

breached the Code, should arrange for the bargains to be altered to a fixed price, and this was done. But the Panel went on to observe that "what could not be undone was the mention on February 17 of a possible bid and it was this that led to the allegations of insider dealing that we have had under consideration".

The broker approached a number of large Ultra shareholders in the course of that morning and one of these was Mr Peter Brown of Portfolio Management which had built up an 8 per cent stake in Ultra for clients.

On the same morning, the Panel discovered, "Mr Brown bought 10,000 shares for his own account at 77p; and it was this purchase that was the subject of our investigation". Mr Brown told the Panel that he received three telephone calls from Mr Kelly on that morning. After the first, when he said that Mr Kelly had simply asked how many Ultra shares Portfolio Management held, he concluded that there might be developments in relation to Ultra and bought 10,000 shares.

During the second call Mr Kelly mentioned a price of 85p to which Mr Brown replied that it would be pointless to begin negotiations at less than 95p. Mr Kelly, Mr Brown alleges,

later called back saying that a straight purchase of 95p was unacceptable and unfolded the Rascal offer of 85p and a "topping up" in the event of a subsequent successful Rascal bid.

Mr Brown said by early afternoon he was feeling unhappy about the purchase and approached a jobbing firm with a view to cancelling the deal. This proved impossible and he later sold the shares at a profit of about £7,000.

For his part, Mr Kelly had no recollection of making a telephone call to Mr Brown asking no more than the size of the Portfolio Management holding. He told the Panel that he had seen in train a series of telephone calls to a number of clients and that by 11 am the Rascal offer had secured around 10 per cent of Ultra.

The broker said that he had no recollection of a figure of 95p having been mentioned by Mr Brown, nor did he consult Mr Ernest Harrison, the chairman of Rascal, on any such figure. The Panel stated that Mr Brown's purchase appears to have been made some time between 10.30 am and 11 am.

In addition, the Panel considered a purchase of Ultra shares by an investment manager of a small merchant bank, having been informed by Mr Kelly of the offer to buy the holdings held by

clients, "bought shares for a close relative".

"The manager", the Panel found, "was entirely frank at all stages of the investigation and has admitted that the purchase was a mistake of judgment. In all the circumstances, as disclosed to us, we decided that the case could be adequately dealt with by a severe caution as to future conduct."

However, Mr Brown's actions merited "severe censure" and the profit on the deal should be handed over to charity approved by the Panel, which Mr Brown has done.

Mr Brown's solicitors stated last night that he maintained that "he had no knowledge of any impending bid for Ultra". It was pointed out that the Panel's findings were based on the evidence of conflicting recollections of telephone conversations which had taken place some six months previously and several important parts of Mr Kelly's evidence which supported Mr Brown's account had been omitted from the Panel's statement.

For example, Mr Kelly admitted "having a number of conversations with Mr Brown on February 17, but he could not say with certainty in which conversation he first informed Mr Brown of the possibility of a forthcoming bid".

### RHM buys Missouri pasta maker

By Our Financial Staff

Ranks Hovis McDougall has conditionally agreed to pay \$21.5m (£12.4m) for Rascino and Freschi, a pasta producer, manufacturer of St Louis, Missouri.

The amount will be paid in cash and will be provided from the proceeds of RHM's recent \$40m Eurodollar bond issue. Acquisition will include three factories at St Louis and Chicago, together with plant machinery and related assets. Rascino and Freschi's net book value totals about \$9m and latest annual pre-tax profits amounted to about \$4m.

Acquisition takes RHM's pasta interests to a further 25 per cent, complementing the 72 per cent owned Gioia Macaroni Company of Buffalo in New York State, acquired in August last year.

Further, the acquisition is followed by that of Red Wings, also of Buffalo, which produces tomato products, peanut butter and other preserves, and it is clear that the United Kingdom bakery group will be making further forays into the United States food market.

Indeed, the balance of the 9 per cent Eurodollar bond loan is already committed to potential American acquisitions, and since RHM is primarily a cash company, it is likely that the United States food market, RHM believes that the deal offers "very considerable potential".

Selling operations of Gioia and Rascino and Freschi are integrated and, despite the highly competitive nature of the United States food manufacturing market, RHM believes that the deal offers "very considerable potential".

### 'Era of protectionism' feared as pressures against Tokyo grow

By Edward Townsend

Forecasters that "a new era of protectionism" will begin in western Europe against imports of Japanese cars unless some of the enthusiasm for exporting is curbed by the manufacturers have been made in the latest issue of the Economist Intelligence Unit's Motor Business Journal.

Pressure in Europe for restrictions on imports grows day by day, it says, "and it is by no means unlikely that some action will be taken by government if the need arises".

Motor Business says there is evidence that the "agreement" by the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association to limit market penetration in the United Kingdom this year to the same 10 per cent level as 1976 will not be renewed for 1978. Even if it were, "there is nothing to stop the 10 per cent figure being breached by the JAMA does not have the authority to dictate shipping

levels to individual manufacturers".

The Journal adds that the British Government has already made clear that the current level of car imports into the country is "unacceptably high" and a further push on the part of the Japanese suppliers will inevitably be resisted.

Pressure is also building up in France to prevent the Japanese capturing more than 3 per cent of the market, it points out.

Establishment by the Japanese of major overseas assembly facilities is not seen as a solution. Despite persistent rumours that Toyota and Nissan intend to set up in a north American or western European location, they have been very reluctant to break away from their domestic manufacturing bases.

"The simple fact is that the socio-economic environment in Japan places a heavy emphasis on preserving job opportunities

in that country and therefore an extensive export effort will be preserved for as long as possible.

"It could be that the time is now approaching when a greater effort will become self-defeating, and that is certainly the case if the mood in Europe is typical worldwide."

Motor Business predicts a rise of 7.7 per cent in Japanese car output next year to 5,500,000 units, although this is likely to reflect an increase in domestic demand rather than a rise in export volume.

In the first half of this year Japan's car exports increased by 10.2 per cent on the figure a year earlier to 1,400,000 units and "1977 will almost certainly be yet another record year".

Meanwhile, Datsun UK, which sells cars produced by Nissan, and is now the third largest car seller on the British market, is to export used cars from Britain to Japan in an attempt to ease anti-Japanese feeling.

### Japan argues over cars for Britain

From Clifford Webb

Tokyo, Oct 7

The British Government's threat to introduce severe quota restrictions on Japanese car imports if their share of the market exceeds the 9.4 per cent "voluntary" ceiling has brought into the open a bitter row between Japanese car manufacturers.

Recent arrivals—notably Mitsubishi—are insisting that Japanese manufacturers like Datsun and Toyota should reduce their share to enable latecomers to increase theirs and still stay within the permitted ceiling.

Datsun sales account for 59 per cent of the total Japanese penetration of the British market.

Dr Tomio Kubo, president of Mitsubishi Motor Corporation, told a press conference here today: "Ideally, those who at present are the big volume exporters should be prepared to accept a lower share."

He would like to export 1,000 cars a month to England. That is 3,000 more than Mitsubishi export to sell in Britain this year.

Dr Kubo, who is also a vice president of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) went on: "There should be more flexibility among exporters. Just because a particular manufacturer has reached a certain level it seems so unreasonable to think that whether his product is good or bad he should continue to have the same share. There should

be more cars for more competition."

He described the situation in the United Kingdom market as "very delicate". Mitsubishi were very concerned about it, he said. In 1975 and 1980 his company was investing £430m to increase its production capacity with a new factory and new models. It had, therefore, to take every opportunity to find markets for this extra capacity.

Mr Michael Orr, managing director of The Colt Car Company which handles all sales of Mitsubishi cars in Britain said some of the big makers would have to give away some of their base. At present, shipments to Britain were allocated through JAMA.

### Expert panel of engineers to study differences in national productivity

Differences in industrial productivity between Britain and overseas countries are to be studied by the Fellowship of Engineering, the body of eminent engineers set up two years ago by the Council of Engineering Institutions.

Lord Hinton of Bankside, president of the fellowship, speaking at the National Maritime Institute, Falmouth, yesterday said the aim was to hold a number of symposia on the subject of national productivity differences.

Other subjects to be studied included the use of newly-developed materials in all branches of engineering, the aspirations of young engineers and the reasons why able boys to select engineering as a career.

The fellowship had been launched to provide an "elite body" which would aim to do for engineering what the Royal Society did for science.

It would provide a body of informed opinion on engineering issues which were of national concern, from which government and other decision-making bodies could obtain a view "which has been considered and expressed by carefully selected professional engineers".

French reserves rise

French official gold and foreign currency holdings rose \$1m from \$18,500m to \$19,500m in September, the Finance Ministry said. The rise was entirely accounted for by a rise in currency holdings to \$2,900m from \$1,800m.

Lockheed Corporation drops Aircraft in title

Lockheed has dropped aircraft from the American company's title. In future it will be known as Lockheed Corporation. This recognises the increasing non-aircraft Lockheed activities, including shipbuilding, petroleum extracting equipment, missiles, space systems and electronics.

the suit being brought against a number of the major oil companies, alleging that they had conspired to maintain the Smith regime in Rhodesia by supplying it with oil. Damages of \$500m kwacha (about £4,000m) are sought by Zambia.

Order for Tyneside

A ship designed specially to carry spent nuclear fuel is to be built by Swan Hunter Shipbuilders on the Tyne. The yard won the £5m contract for the 200-tonne vessel from British Nuclear Fuels after a competition from abroad. It will provide work for about 600 men.

Bonn inflation at 3.7 pc

The rate of inflation in West Germany slowed again last month with the cost of living index rising by only 3.7 per cent, compared with 3.9 per cent in August. In August the year-to-year price rise was 3.9 per cent while in July the index gained 4.3 per cent. According to figures from the Federal Statistics Office, today's year-to-year rise in the cost of living is the lowest since November, 1976.

Chinese trade talks

Representatives of leading British companies have concluded talks in Peking on how to increase sales to China by finding out what the country wants to buy. Lord Nelson, leader of the Sino-British Trade Council Mission to China and chairman of GEC, said yesterday it had been agreed that there would be an increased exchange of information on China's priority needs in purchasing.

Wimpey contracts

Contracts worth £4.65m in Scotland and Oman were announced yesterday by George Wimpey and Co. A £2m Scottish contract is for 213 homes at Livingston, and two Oman contracts involve extensive equipment and building and maintenance of roads.

Oil companies sued

Shell and British Petroleum confirmed yesterday that they had received writs from the Zambian Attorney-General in

stop it rising even further. Later in the day demand for sterling eased, however, with the authorities not being nervous during the afternoon. The pound's effective rate fell to 62.3 per cent of the level in 1971, a drop of 0.1 percentage points.

The strongest currency of the day was the Swiss franc, which has been leading the European market against the dollar all through the week.

It is now almost on a par with the Deutsche mark, and most dealers expect it to overtake the German currency very soon.

The yen also advanced from its Thursday level, but at the close it was below the day's best.

### Further £600m gilts issue

The Bank of England yesterday took the Government's current year funding programme a stage further with the announcement of a new £600m issue of short-dated stock.

It is being issued as the second tranche in the refinancing of the two low coupon gilts that fall due for redemption over the next couple of months.

The first £600m issue of £100m 3 per cent, 1983, was exhausted on Thursday morning.

Two stocks that are coming up for redemption shortly are the £580m issue of Treasury 3 per cent, 1977, on November 15, and the £242m issue of British Transport 4 per cent 1972-77 on December 20.

The new low coupon stock, for which application lists will close on Thursday, is being offered at 99 1/2 per cent to give a running yield of 3.26 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 5.32 per cent.

### How the markets moved

Rises  
Apex Props 9p to 204p  
Brit Sugar 15p to 460p  
Fisons 10p to 370p  
Geevor Tin 10p to 117p  
Liford 8p to 385p  
McCorquodale 8p to 214p

Falls  
Durban Road 9p to 231p  
Elburg Gold 4p to 99p  
Fisher 8p to 143p  
Hunting Gold 20p to 213p  
Laxite 5p to 57p  
Metal Box 8p to 348p  
Nigate Export 10p to 307p

Equities were subdued. Gilts edged securities fell back. Dollar premium 92.0 per cent (effective rate 25.23 per cent). Sterling lost 9 pps to \$1.7588. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.3.

On other pages

Annual Statement: Sobranie

### Carter rebuff to steel lobby

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, Oct 7

Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary, said today that a straightforward programme to restrict steel imports into America was unlikely to improve the condition of the ailing steel industry.

His statement, and others made by Administration leaders, clearly indicate that President Carter is not prepared to bow to mounting pressures for tough new steel import quotas.

Latest figures show that these imports were higher in August than in any month since December, 1974—1.83 million tons—about 16 per cent above the July total.

### Business leaders visiting Vietnam

Paris, Oct 7

A delegation of European industrialists and bankers left here today for talks with the Vietnamese Government on its development plans.

The 14-man group, which will spend nearly a fortnight in Hanoi, is headed by M. Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, brother of the French president, and is made up of members and officials of Ciel—the Paris-based European Centre for International Cooperation, a unique partnership of European companies, banks and developing countries.

The delegation includes executives from Britain's Davy International as well as from other leading European businesses, including Fiat, Hoechst, Paribas.

### SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Joint Managing Director, Mr. Charles C. Redstone:

The year ending 28th February, 1977, has not been a particularly good year for us. Group trading profits, however, increased, though the fruits of our extra endeavours were lost in the higher interest charges and the rising costs for services and raw materials.

During the year a valuation of the majority of the Group's freehold land and buildings was carried out, and resulted in a surplus over book value of some £825,000.

Sobranie pipe smokers are distinctly elitist, possessing the sense to recognise that no better tobacco exists and that, either in a relaxed mood, or to procure a relaxed mood, a gentle puff from a good pipe of this splendid blend is the best panacea for the world's innumerable ills.

Laundry is a competitive service industry, and we are much dependent on the general affluence of the community. The financial results in 1977/78 look as if they will be better than in the year just past.

The expected upturn in general engineering activity did not appear but we have updated our plans and increased our selling activities, and the results are now being reflected in increased order books.

### Breathing space for travel agents

A compromise agreement on restrictive practices in the travel industry has at last been reached between the Association of British Travel Agents and the Office of Fair Trading. ABTA has failed to win special legislation to exempt it from the Restrictive Practices Court.

However, provided it is prepared to drop some of its restrictions immediately, the Office of Fair Trading has granted a one year respite before it will start any proceedings against the "closed shop" rule which ABTA maintains is vital to its effective operation.

To gain the deferment over the "closed shop" restriction ABTA must drop other rules which prevent travel agents from discounting prices and give more flexibility than exists at present for commission rates and methods of advertising.

The concessions are regarded by the negotiating committee headed by Mrs Margaret Hook, ABTA's president, as relatively minor compared with the closed shop rule.

The argument presented by Mrs Hook during the series of meetings which have taken place over the past few months with various government departments as well as the OFT is that to dissolve the travel industry's closed shop would not be in the best interests of consumers.

ABTA maintains that the rule which prevents member tour operators from selling foreign inclusive holidays through non-member agents is an essential component of its bonding scheme.

The safeguards users of coach, cruise and other types of surface holiday provided by ABTA members and strengthens the statutory arrangements for air travel holidaymakers. It also protects consumers from defaulting travel agents.

In addition to collecting and administering funds raised from the bonds the association also takes steps to prevent failures from arising. Under its accounts rules it compels tour operators and retail agents to submit their annual accounts for scrutiny.

The self-regulating system acknowledged to contain imperfections. After the collapse of the giant Court Line group in 1974 neither ABTA's bonds nor those collected by the Civil Aviation Authority were sufficient to meet commitments to holidaymakers.

In addition, since the existing schemes are not fully comprehensive it is possible for travel agents and tour operators to trade without either becoming members of the association or any requirement to obtain a CAA license.

ABTA's argument is that to replace the service which it provides would necessitate the establishment of a cumbersome and expensive statutory licensing and bonding system, and an organization to administer it.

It further argues that such an external body would not have the expertise quickly to reparate stranded holidaymakers or to organize alternative holidays in the event of a collapse.

"When a financial failure occurs," it says, "it is vital that those who carry



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Grouse

The 1973 Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act was a marvellous piece of consumer protection legislation which prevents anyone selling goods from escaping liability if the goods are defective. But, strictly speaking, that protection is available only to the person who actually bought the goods.

The result is that a curious anomaly exists where food (definitely goods within the Act) is concerned: only the customer enjoys the protection of the Supply of Goods Act. So what happens in a restaurant when both the host and his guests fall ill after eating a meal which, in the event, has proved less than satisfactory?

In this case only the actual buyer, the man who paid for the meal, will have an automatic claim for damages. The poor guests, suffering from the same stomach pains caused by the same food, might not succeed in getting damages because of the trivial difference that they had not paid the bill.

The host will have a claim because he bought the meal. It was an implied term of the sale that the food was safe to eat.

The guests (which includes family as well as friends) were not party to that sale and they would not have such a direct and simple claim against the restaurant. To obtain damages they would have to prove that the restaurant staff had in some way been negligent in the preparation of the food.

The host would not have to prove negligence—only the much simpler proposition that he had become ill as a result of eating the food. The fact that only the contracting party, the man who foots the bill for the meal, can claim if the contract is broken means that the guests cannot claim damages automatically.

It is a silly anomaly which ignores commonsense. This says that the same ill should merit the same redress, not to mention ease of redress. It was spotted as long ago as 1937 by the Law Revision Committee but no one has yet acted on their suggestion that it should be remedied.

## Time to put a brake on personalized bonds?

A controversial new kind of single-premium policy is dividing the linked life insurance industry. On the one hand are the protagonists of the new product, mainly the newer, smaller unit-linked offices; on the other are the long-established majors of the linked life industry. Ultimately, it will be the Inland Revenue which will decide which side is right.

The name of the game is "personalized bonds"—at least until somebody thinks of a better title.

In essence, the concept is very simple. If you have a large portfolio of stock exchange securities—equities or gilts—then you convert your holdings into your own private life fund and link a single-premium bond contract to it.

In other words the investor, now renamed a policyholder, although technically no longer the owner of the shares, which have been sold to the life office, has an advantageous life assurance policy based upon the identical holdings which continue to be managed by his own stockbroker.

The tax advantages are real. For a year, the income tax rate of life offices on their investment income is only 35

per cent (37 per cent from property rentals) compared with the individual's own income tax rate in the higher tax brackets, not to mention the investment income surcharge.

By using a withdrawal scheme to tap the personalized life fund the investor can draw up to 5 per cent free of immediate taxes. The liability is deferred until the bond is cashed in total, by which time the individual's tax rate may be much lower than it is now.

When the bond is cashed, the maturity proceeds, as with all single premium policies, are subject to higher rate taxes only and top-sliced (to take account of the number of years the bond was held) at that.

So it is apparent that when the private shareholder converts his holdings into a single premium policy he is doing so to take advantage of the tax concessions applied to life assurance. He is, in the jargon, "tax sheltering" his funds.

It is this blatant tax avoidance—which is legitimate, compared with evasion, which is not—day is worrying many people within the life assurance industry.

Abbey Life, Hambro Life,

Vanbrugh Life and Save and Prosper are four of the biggest unit-linked life offices in the country and they have all, in private, come out very strongly against personalized bonds. I say "in private" deliberately, because their strong belief, shared incidentally with the companies which are selling these bonds—is that no publicity is best of all.

"We are," said David Morris, marketing director of Vanbrugh, "very concerned with the ramifications about the abuse of life assurance." Fred Richardson, Abbey Life's managing director, said: "We'd rather nobody had thought of them."

He added: "There is a limit to which you can take the reasonably proper tax advantages of life assurance."

The argument against personalized bonds is basically that it is a product which takes advantage of tax legislation which was not written with personalized bonds in mind. That, by itself, would not be sufficient reason to draw back from them, as anyone who remembers, first, family bonds in the mid-sixties and then guaranteed income bonds earlier this decade, will know.

Both functioned in a vacuum created by the absence of relevant tax law and nobody was very surprised when the Revenue jumped, and jumped hard, on them.

The Inland Revenue, with its notoriously suspicious nature, is known to have been querying in recent years some of the aspects of life assurance and the industry is keeping its fingers crossed that it will not take action against personalized bonds ("We know they exist," the Revenue says). If it does happen, what frightens companies with a long-term stake in the linked-life business is that it may be impossible to distinguish between the baby and the bathwater.

In short, if single premium personalized bonds are hit, how will it be possible to avoid hitting the conventional forms of single-premium bonds linked to a broad range of equities, property and gilts? The single-premium contracts of some 20 million policyholders could be put at risk.

The main groups offering bonds of this kind are Trident Life, Lloyds Life, Property Investors, Lloyds Bank through its Beehive range, Tyndall, Grosvenor

Life and recently Amey Life and Albany Life. Schroder Life, which set the ball rolling about 18 months ago, has since pulled out.

Schroder Life withdrew because the administrative expenses of personalized bonds are high and also because it became aware of the long-term implications as more and more companies joined up. Lloyd's Life was probably the second company to join the field, and its complaint is that others are asking the product into the market too aggressively, by lowering the minimum investment from its own level of £100,000 to much less. Indeed, Trident Life accepts portfolios as low as £25,000 for bond conversion.

One thing common to all the companies in the personalized bond business is their reluctance to market or promote the schemes. At present I am sitting on the fence in the debate, but one cannot help wondering why, if the companies concerned are so certain about the ethics of the personalized bond, as they all say they are after having given the matter much thought, they are so worried about publicizing it. Do they protest too much?

What I do find disturbing is how far from the original concept personalized bonds have already developed. At first, they were meant up for individuals with a stake in a company with which they had personal connections. The idea then, sketched into a few schemes for very wealthy clients with large existing portfolios.

The next step was when a selected investment was made beforehand—such as a specific gilt-edged stock—for bond conversion. Now the industry is already talking about stock broker bonds for personal clients.

Each stage has been accompanied by worried "Don't like it" by people in this section of the business, as well as by others outside. The question must be: when will the Revenue be pushed into officially disliking it, too?

One would like to caution the industry to moderation. But this, probably too late for that, personalized bonds now seem to have their own momentum. But unless the brakes are put on pretty quickly, the industry may live to regret them.

Margaret Stone

## Taxation

## If you are disputing the bill, pay something on account

As many readers will know from bitter experience, the rules introduced some two years ago for speeding up payment of tax and for charging interest on unpaid tax are being rigidly enforced—so rigidly that inequities can and do arise.

Looking back at what used to be the case, one can see, from the Treasury's cash flow point of view, why a change was necessary. A great deal of tax is collected by direct assessment, for example, on income such as profits, rents, deposit account interest, &c. More often than not the tax office does not get the income figures in time to raise accurate assessments, so it issues estimated ones instead. In these assessments are stated the amount of income estimated to be taxable and the amount of tax considered to be payable on the normal due date (this date varies according to the type of income).

Before the new rules came into force it was quite easy to delay paying one's tax bill and to avoid being charged interest on it. By appealing against the amount of income assessed, the normal due date for payment of tax could be postponed until 30 days after the liability had been finally settled with the tax office, which could take many months and sometimes years.

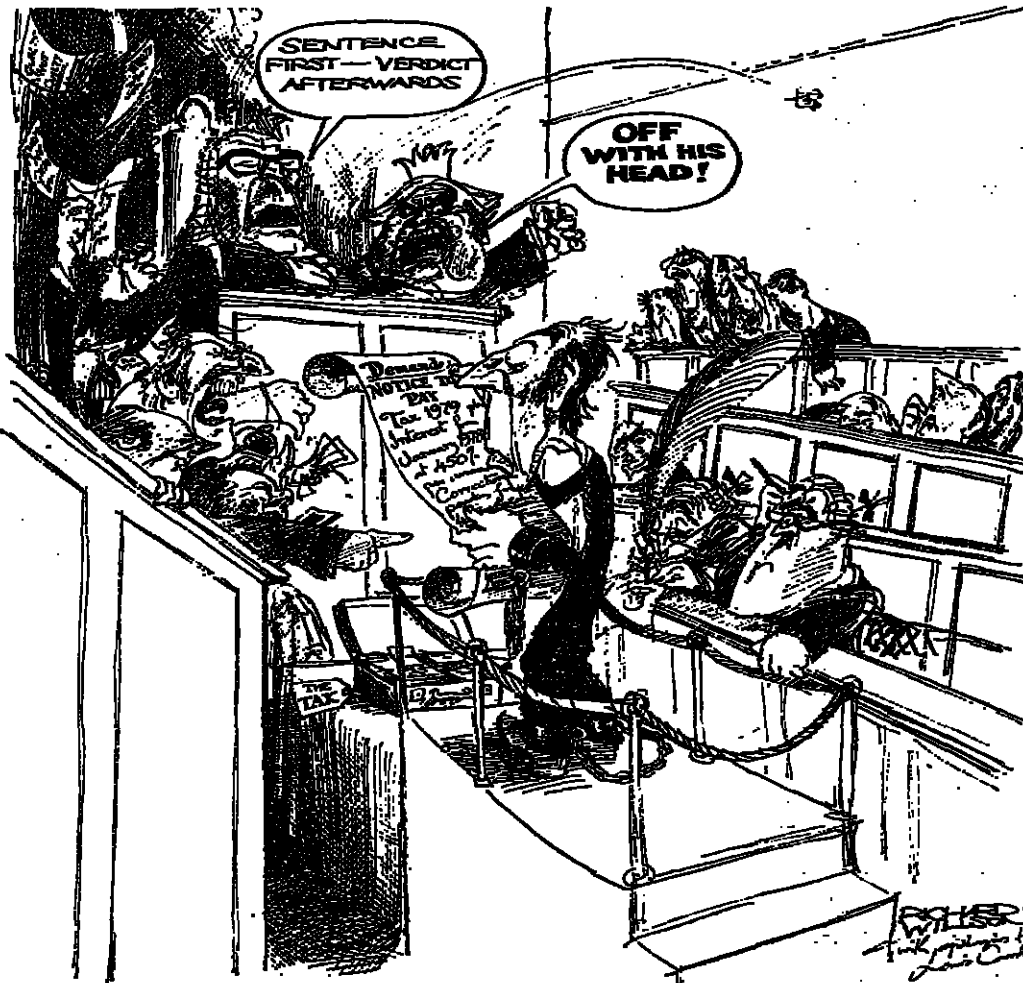
And interest did not start to run until the postponed payable date. Even then, interest was remitted if the tax outstanding was below £1,000 (no matter how long it took to pay up—bullshit permitting) or if the tax was paid up within two months of the payable date (whatever the amount) or if the interest itself was £5 or less.

Things are now very different, and an appeal against the amount of income assessed is not sufficient to put off the evil day. To acquire this amount of tax is being rigidly enforced—so rigidly that inequities can and do arise.

The tax in dispute will be held over until the liability is agreed but the rub is that interest on it can only be delayed for six months after the normal due date. For example, those who have a tax liability which was normally due for payment on January 1, 1977, but currently remains unpaid, will find they are incurring a charge to interest from July 1, 1977 until payment, although of course the impact of it cannot be calculated until the amount of the outstanding tax bill is finally agreed. The interest will be remitted only if it does not exceed £10.

The charge to interest will arise from the dates I have mentioned, regardless of the date on which a demand note is received from the Collector of Taxes. Now this is where inequities can arise, because if there is any delay in the demand note reaching the taxpayer, perhaps because the collector of taxes has been delayed in dispatch, or the postal service has been slower than usual, he or she may unwittingly be caught for interest.

An acquaintance of mine felt sufficiently aggrieved to take



his case to the Ombudsman. The substance of this particular case was that an assessment had been issued in mid-November 1975, well before the tax payable date of January 1, 1976. As it happens, the amount of the income was correctly stated—it was the tax calculation that was wrong.

The accounts lodged an appeal but did not ask for any tax to be held over beyond January 1, 1976, as they reasonably thought that a simple matter of arithmetic would be corrected well before that date. It was not to be. The collector of taxes con-

tinued to dispatch demand notes, but for the original amount of tax, and it was not until mid-March 1976 that they got it right, and the taxpayer promptly paid up. Not content with the prompt settlement, the collector of taxes sent the taxpayer a demand for interest running from January 1, 1976, until the tax office received the cheque.

For his pains the taxpayer was awarded an apology for the Inland Revenue's delay, but nothing more. It was pointed out that the Inland Revenue was acting within the law in charging interest, as the

taxpayer did in fact know there was a liability and should have paid it on time, regardless of whether he received a correct demand note.

So taxpayers beware! The interest continues to be 9 per cent net of tax despite the recent tumble in rates, which makes it a little under 14 per cent gross for the basic rate taxpayer, rising to an astronomical 450 per cent for the very well off.

Vera Di Palma

## Motor insurance

## The useful art of making a claim

Every motorist claims on his policy, on average, about once in seven years, although that period is coming down owing to an unexplained increase in claims incidence. But, of course, the law of averages does not always run true to form.

Many motorists unfortunately make a claim soon after taking down their "L" plates; others drive for years, on the top rate of no-claim discount, before becoming involved in the hard business of a claim.

Most accidents involve another car. Part of the "art" of making a claim is being able to convince your own insurers that the accident was caused solely by the other fellow and, but for the existence of the insurers' knock-for-knock agreement, they would

have been able to recover the full amount of your claim from him, or from his insurers.

Success on this point means that your no-claim discount may not be reduced at renewal, even though your own insurers will have paid for the cost of repairing the car—apart from the first £25 or so, for which you may be responsible under the terms of the policy.

Get as much information as possible at the time of an accident—such as the name and address of the driver and the registration number of the car. Also, ask for confirmatory evidence. Some motorists give false names and addresses, perhaps because they do not believe in spending money on insurance (despite the fact

that some cover is required by law) or because they do not want to hazard their no-claims discount.

If possible, try to take the names and addresses of one or two witnesses. Their evidence could prove helpful, although two people who witness the same event may describe it in very different ways.

Even if it looks as though it may not be necessary to make a claim—if, for instance, the cost of the repair is likely to be within the uninsured "excess" figure—your insurers should be told about the accident. It is just possible that, at a later date, the other motorist may put in a claim against you.

Unless your own insurers have been told of the accident at the time, they may be able

to side-step a claim at a later stage.

Often, an accident involves dealing not only with your own insurers, but also the other motorist's company. For instance, if you are convinced that the accident was caused solely as a result of his negligence, you can try to recover the amount of the repairs from your own insurers due to the application of the excess.

If successful, your own insurers may regard this as "proof" that, but for the existence of the knock-for-knock agreement, they would have been able to make a full recovery.

If it looks as though your car will be off the road for some time because of the other motorist's negligence, you may

need to hire a replacement car for yourself. Unfortunately, when faced with this proposition, many other motorists' insurers are unlikely to say that they will meet the cost, less the normal running expenses which you would have experienced with your own car.

The more or less stock answer is that, if due course, you will be able to recover the bulk of the cost.

Insurers probably save a lot of money since, clearly, many motorists decide not to hire a replacement because they do not want to risk failing to make a recovery from the other side.

John Drummond

With insurance, there is a great tradition of taking what the insurance company offers, rather than stipulating the cover one would like.

In the past companies were prepared to be reasonably flexible—within limits. Now, however, everybody gets much the same service, and there is not a great deal of scope for a private householder to incorporate his own wordings in a policy.

Few insurers want to depart from the norm, and there is no insurer comparable to Coutts in the world of banking, from which a genuinely better service is available.

Changes, however, may be on the way for household insurers. Some insurers are wondering whether they are still giving us what we want—especially as premiums are rising rapidly because of inflation pushing up the replacement costs of both houses and their contents.

Probably we have reached the stage where many householders would be prepared to forgo some of the cover in return for a reduction in the premium. As motorists most of us are willing to pay at least £50 or so, rather than make a claim.

First, there is the excess accepted for a reduction in premium; secondly, it is not worth

## Insurance

## An excess clause for your household policy?

"... agreed to give subsidence cover a few years ago..."

making a fairly small claim in view of the loss of no-claim discount that would result.

Could the same idea be applied to household insurance? After all, in most policies, any excesses are comparatively modest at present and usually do not apply to all types of claim.



a similar reduction in the company's running expenses.

One solution, which has been tried out by some insurers, has been to give wider cover for both buildings and contents—on "all risks" terms, but to impose an excess so that the first £15 (or more) of any claim is not covered.

In theory, that should be a sensible arrangement. After all, presumably most people do not want to be faced with expensive fortuitous damage which, as a result of "small print", or anything else, is not covered. In a way, it is a matter of luck

that the insurance industry agreed to give subsidence cover a few years ago—before it was appreciated how serious the damage could be.

Otherwise all those in the South-east and elsewhere, where houses have been damaged due to the drying out of clay subsoil etc. would have had to meet the cost themselves. Incidentally, most policies do not cover "heave", so that a company can turn down a claim if it is due to the ground rising, after heavy rainfall etc.

Admittedly, "all risks" cover on buildings with a fairly sub-

stantial excess would mean that it would not be possible to claim for the occasional broken window, cracked lavatory pan, etc. That, however, is something most of us should be able to meet ourselves. We need cover for the "catastrophe" type of loss or damage.

The idea of "all risks" cover has been used with household contents, but with few statistics, most insurers are still feeling their way—in connection with both rates of premium and excesses.

One company launched an "all risks" policy for contents with a great flourish, but a few months later decided to treble the level of compulsory excess, which was hardly calculated to win friends among its policyholders.

Some insurers, however, feel that really basic cover is all that is needed, with a compulsory excess.

There is plenty of thought going on, but the marketing men with the insurance companies may have a hard time ahead of them because so many householders, apart from wanting to pay lower premiums, have no clear idea of the cover which would be best for them.

## 8% CAN BE BETTER THAN 11% M&amp;G HIGH INCOME FUND

An original investor in this Fund has experienced a consistent rise in income and is now receiving a yield of 15.54% on his original investment. So, when considering a high income unit trust, don't just look at the advertised gross current yield. Ask yourself also how likely that yield is to increase over the years, and what prospects there may be for capital growth. Long-term investors, therefore, tend to avoid holdings such as preference shares, where the return is fixed and capital growth potential limited. The M&G High Income Fund, currently invested more than 95% in equities, provides an opportunity for you to invest in a successful U.K. Trust whose aim is to provide a high and growing income at least 80% higher than the return from shares in general, with prospects of capital growth. The estimated gross current yield is 8% at the latest buying price of 103.2p.

Unit Trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money that you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. Prices are made up of the F.T. daily. There is a charge of 3.5% initially and 1% plus VAT annually. Distributions are made on 31 January and 31 July. The next distribution date for new investors will be 31 January 1978. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchases or sales will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. 1% commission is payable to accredited agents, Trustees, Cyrenaide Bank Limited. The Fund is a wider-range security and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade. M&G is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

## TWO WAYS TO INVEST

In addition to investing a capital sum as mentioned above you can start a Regular Monthly Saving Plan through a life assurance policy for as little as £10 a month and you are normally entitled to date by relief at current rates of £17 for each £100 paid. On a £10 Plan, tax relief at present rates can bring down your net monthly cost to only £1.80, with which you buy units worth considerably more.

Regular investment of this type also means that you can take advantage of the inevitable fluctuations in the price of units through Round Sum Averaging, which gives you a positive arithmetical advantage, because your regular investment buys more units when the price is low and fewer when it is high. You also get life cover of at least 10 times your monthly payment throughout the period if your age at entry is 54 or under (women 58), and rather less up to 75.

If you cash in or stop your payments during the first four years there is a penalty and the tax advantages require you to make a declaration, so you should not consider the Plan for less than five years. It is 8% to 9% (depending on your starting age) invested except in the first two years when an additional 20 per cent is retained to meet setting-up expenses.

M&G is a member of the Life Offices Association. The relevant available residents of the Republic of Ireland.

The results indicate that over the long term over seven years—M&G is outstanding. FINANCIAL TIMES 26.7.77. M&G is the group that investors can least afford to ignore. SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 17.7.77.

## TWO WAYS TO INVEST

1. INVEST TO GROW: Complete this section if you wish to make a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

2. INVEST TO SAVE: Complete this section if you wish to make a Regular Monthly Saving (minimum £10 a month).

1. INVEST TO GROW: Complete this section if you wish to make a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Second-line stocks take up the running

Investor's week

As expected, the London stock market is passing through a period of consolidation. Several indicators at a rally have been snuffed out by nervous selling.

The main factors bearing on sentiment are hopes of still lower interest rates—borne out by yesterday's half point cut in minimum lending rate—and fears that the eventual outcome of the Ford pay talks and the government attitude to it might lead to a flood of inflationary pay claims.

In the event these two forces tended to cancel each other out and over the week the FT 30 share index rose 2.5 to 517.2. However, the performance of the index was rather misleading as the leading industrial shares of which it is comprised were largely ignored, investors preferring to concentrate on second line stocks with good growth potential or special factors working in their favour.

Investors may argue that the index struggled for a while to regain the levels of three weeks ago, but most see this as an indication of underlying strength. For most it is a question of "when", rather than "if", new ground will be reached.

Over the more immediate concerns of interest rates and pay has been the Labour Party conference. The market's anxiety was already finely tuned to the party conference, but while they have introduced a general note of caution the events at Brighton have done little to discourage, or indeed encourage, investors.

With the market in no mood to make a move either way, the continuing strength of the pound against the dollar and record currency reserve figures have made little impact. But the prospect of a tax-cutting autumn package continued to boost con-

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK				
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Movement	Comment
1080	240	Campan	21p to 108p	Strong figures
2300	940	Guinness Peat	24p to 230p	Favourable comment
93p	15p	Mining Supplies	16p to 85p	Possible bid
362p	188p	Metal Box	18p to 348p	Prices go ahead
90p	84p	St Piran	9p to 89p	S. Croft's success

sumer-oriented shares and hopes that lower interest rates would give a lift to a flagging construction industry, particularly on the housebuilding side, inspired a better than average demand for the sector.

It was not surprising that after the sparkling performance of the previous week government stocks turned in a much more subdued showing. With the gilt index looking overbought some sort of correction was inevitable, even though a solid two-way trade was reported on most days.

The new "saxat payers" rap stock, announced after the official close yesterday, was expected to have a depressing effect on the short end of the market.

After a succession of below par figures from top-line companies it was, perhaps, not surprising that interim profits from P & O should provoke a bearish response. The profits were, if anything, a little above target, but a warning on the second half brought selling, which many who regard the shares as a long-term "hold" thought was overdue. Over the week the shares lost 10p to 134p.

Another leading company to perform well was Metal Box, which reversed an earlier under-performance after receiving the go-ahead to raise prices. The shares went up 18p to 348p.

The tea sector at present buzzing with takeover activity produced the week's most volatile stock in Morant Tea. The shares first bounced more than 100p to over 400p on news of terms from Buxa-Domars, but reverted to their former position when the terms were withdrawn the following day.

They then went to over £4 again on widespread talk of a bid from another quarter. The shares ended the week at £4.

## Lower rates for credit cards

Barclaycard has followed Access's lead rather sooner than expected in cutting its interest rate on outstanding balances from 2 per cent to 1 1/2 per cent a month. At the same time it has given warning that rates could return to the 1 1/2 per cent level, at which they were at until a couple of years ago, only if the Government eased the restrictions on their use, thus encouraging customers to leave their accounts outstanding longer.

For good measure Barclaycard also managed to point out that because of the different way its rates were calculated—unlike Access, which calculates a daily basis—Barclaycard does its sums on the monthly balance—its rates worked out slightly cheaper.

Mercantile Credit, Barclays' hire purchase subsidiary, has also followed the moves of other hire purchase companies (except for United Dominions Trust, that is), who have been gradually reducing their rates.

Mercantile Credit has reduced the cost of its personal loans by 2 per cent, taking the cost of a two-year loan down to 21.5 per cent.

If you find yourself a little disturbed that the banks have a struggle to compete with the lending in this country outside mortgages, you may take heart from this week's news about the National Giro. It is attempting to provide the clearers with a little more competition by announcing deposit account, bridging loan and budget account facilities for personal customers.

This adds to the rapid expansion of other services in the past couple of years.

## Stock markets

# MLR discounted as prices retreat

Equities spent a nervous and indecisive session with the half point cut in MLR well discounted and investors continuing to worry about the potential implications of the Ford pay talks.

A point of particular concern was the Prime Minister's remarks that, ultimately, the Government could do little to stop pay rises exceeding its 10 per cent guideline.

This gave rise to small but persistent profit taking and the FT index, 0.6 up at 11 am, lost ground thereafter to close 1.5 lower at 517.2, a drop of 3.5 over the first week of the present account.

Government stocks also fell back with the interest rate cut well discounted. Losses at the short end were of the order of half a point while longer maturities gave up to £1.

Dealers felt that the new "saxat payers" rap would be likely to dampen down the short end of the market, while the lack of a new issue of longer maturity was taken to mean that prices should go higher next week.

Among the industrial leaders Fisons was the best performer after the press article

highlighting the possibility of higher fertiliser prices had brought a strong demand. Though off the top the shares closed 15p to the good at 370p.

After the strength of recent days Metal Box reacted 8p to 348p and there was also a retreat from EMI after earlier figures with the shares closing 3p lower at 219p.

The "bulls" of Rascal continued to have their way with the shares rising another 16p to 230p, while elsewhere in the electrical sector both Thorn, better by 10p to 428p and Pifco 6p to 92p were in demand on auto-n budget hopes.

In papers News International rose 8p to 220p in front of figures next week while Pearson Longman dipped 6p to 179p after its statement. Elsewhere in the sector John Menzies jumped 18p to 290p on consumer spending hopes.

In stores the highlight fell on smaller issues like Hepworth "A", better by 4p to 56p, and AG Stanley which was supported at 126p, up 5p.

Building issues continued to spark some interest with Movell up 6p better at 138p after earlier figures. Marches 5p higher at 275 and Tilbury Contractors putting on 3p to 253p and recouping part of the week's loss.

A dividend boosting rights issue spurred Newman Industries to a rise of 12p to 75p and the Cardiff loan traded at a premium of £1 3/16 on the £10 partly paid price.

In a buoyant building sector Midlands based GH Downing has been a strong performer, rising 35p to 230p this week on small but persistent buying. There has been vague takeover talk though no names are mentioned.

In Status Discount which rose 7p to 113p. In shipping the volatile Hunting Gibson ended with a slump of 20p to 212p after the lower interim profits.

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## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Int of Fin	12.2(11.14)	0.6(0.75)	7.8(8.5)	3(2.94)	29.10	(-5.94)
Asst & Lacey	3.92(3.54)	0.004(0.09)	—	1.25(1.25)	14.11	(-2.87)
Bourne & H. (I)	—	1.8(1.63)	—	—	—	—
Brit Arrow (I)	—	2.2(1.3)	—	0.31(0.31)	—	—
J. W. Cameron (I)	83.1(14.32)	—	—	—	—	—
Ellerman L. (I)	74.1(61.0)	4.8(6.0)	—	2.25(2.25)	10.10	—
John Finslay (I)	0.58(1.01)	0.02(0.03)	0.38(0.62)	NH(NH)	—	(-N1)
Peat Marven (I)	0.86(0.24)	0.16(0.12)	0.16(0.12)	1.22(1.10)	—	—
Hunting Bird (I)	70.2(60.8)	0.6(0.15)	2.1(1.51)	5.0(5.0)	12.12	(-10.7)
Lake & Ell (I)	13.24(18.29)	1.1(2.0)	4.44(10.62)	2.0(2.0)	3.1	3.4(3.4)
L. & S. Ltd (F)	—	0.33(0.27)	—	0.33(0.31)	25.11	(-5.2)
Newman Inds (I)	20.27(11.2)	1.41(0.51)	12.6(9.9)	1.14(0.99)	1.34(1.39)	—
S. Pearson (I)	157.6(138.6)	14.1(11.2)	9.59(7.73)	2.0(2.0)	25.11	(-6.1)
Pearson Long (I)	69.1(58.6)	9.1(7.9)	10.2(7.64)	1.2(1.2)	25.11	(-5.2)
Profr Ltd	—	—	—	3.7(3.3)	1.1	(-7.31)
Richards L. (I)	2.64(1.97)	0.32(0.24)	7.75(5.83)	1.21(1.1)	10.12	(-3.41)
Scots T.V. (I)	7.3(5.5)	2.0(1.3)	1.65(1.37)	1.65(1.37)	—	(-1.1)
Telecom (I)	1.0(0.53)	1.0(0.53)	1.45(0.94)	4.0(4.0)	28.11	(-1.1)
Wearwell (F)	4.0(6.2)	0.08(0.17b)	0.81(1.6b)	NH(NH)	—	NH(0.59)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Not loss. b Loss.

## Newman's 1-for-3 after trebling up

By Our Financial Staff

Near-trebled profits at the half-year and news of a dividend boosting rights issue at Newman Industries were more than enough for the Stock Exchange yesterday. In a market that was quietly easier on the day, jobs marked the shares up 1 1/2p to close at 73p.

The one-for-three rights at 47p will raise about £13.5m and the directors reveal that the cash will be used both directly and through the enlargement of the equity base in financing the future development and expansion of the group.

Newman is already involved in take-over talks with Dover Engineering, in which it has a 25.93 per cent stake, but the two companies are having difficulty agreeing terms. The improved cash and equity position of Newman, following the rights issue, could help to close this gap.

The rights, on which the restrictions on the underwriting discount are to be no more than 25 per cent, also gives the group a 60 per cent pre-tax profit dividend for 1977 by 35 per cent. An anticipated final payout of 5.49p will give shareholders an annual total of 7.567p gross.

In the first six months of this year the group turned in a pre-tax profit of £1.4m against £1.5m for the same period last year and £1.7m for 1976 as a whole. Sales increased from £11.3m to £20.2m in the six months with the biggest rise, of 109 per cent coming from the overseas side.

These results include a first time contribution from Alfred Clough and Agar Cross which became subsidiaries at the end of 1976. They were formerly associated companies.

And the outlook for the second half is promising. The order book at the end of June substantially exceeded that at the same time last year and the directors anticipate doubled pre-tax profits of around £3.4m at the year end.

Swollen by the results from Elbar Industrial, which is now a subsidiary and not an associate, pre-tax profits of Tanganyika Concessions more than doubled from £539,000 to £1.14m in the first half of this year. Tanganyika's turnover rose from £736,000 to £1.79m, including £1.26m operating profit from Elbar, which became a 53.8 per cent-owned offshoot in June.

The tax charge is up from £139,000 to £254,000, but "Tanks" takes in extraordinary items of £304,000, compared with £813,000 last time. Earnings per share have dipped from 1.94p to 1.45p. An unchanged interim is being paid.

While too early to expect a return to the sort of results enjoyed in 1973, the group has the outcome next year to show that convalescence has been successfully completed.

Outlook brighter at Change Wares

Mr Geoffrey Rose, chairman of Change Wares, told the annual meeting that the group's

## Longman provides fillip for S Pearson push to £14m

By Bryan Appleyard

S. Pearson & Son, the banking and publishing conglomerate headed by Viscount Cowdray, made £14.2m pre-tax profit in the six months to June 30 against £11.2m last year. Turnover was up from £133.6m to £157.7m.

Much of the growth came from the 60 per cent-owned subsidiary Pearson Longman which reported profits up from £7m to £9.2m pre-tax on turnover up from £58.7m to £69.2m.

Within Pearson Longman Westminster Press, the regional newspaper group, improved its profits from £3.7m to £5.7m in the second half of the year and the company makes no comment on its effect.

The company also makes no comment on current trading or forecasts for the full year.

The results take earnings at Pearson Longman up from 7.64p to 10.2p and the gross interim dividend is maintained at 2.65p.

Earnings for the whole group are up from 7.73p to 9.59p and the interim dividend is maintained at 3.03p.

Shares in Pearson Longman fell 4p to 179p yesterday where they yield 5 per cent prospectively, with an historical price-earnings ratio of 8.2. S. Pearson shares gained 3p to 207p to yield 5 per cent with a p/e of 9.8.

from £1.4m to £1.98m. The book publishing company, Penguin, however, produced profits down from £807,000 to £449,000.

Lazard Brothers, the merchant banking division, was said to have "done well".

Doulton & Co, the 100 per cent-owned china-to-electrical engineering subsidiary, produced pre-tax profits marginally up at £5.26m against £5.1m last time. Turnover rose from £71.3m to £83.5m.

The dispute at the Financial Times, which halted production for almost three weeks, occurred in the second half of the year and the company makes no comment on its effect.

## Reduced interim loss at Britannia Arrow

By Alison Mitchell

Britannia Arrow Holdings, formerly Slater, Walker Securities, should have a better second half, according to chairman Sir James Goldsmith.

The group is already well on the way to curbing its losses, ending the first six months of this year only £1.8m in the red compared with a net loss of £6.3m for the same period in 1976. And Sir James looks to a reduction in the rate of trading loss for the second half of 1977.

The bulk of the loss comes from the property side which sucked a near same-again £3.6m from profits. However, disposals of investments and subsidiaries contributed just over £1m against a previous £300,000.

These results do not include losses of £1.6m which were realized on the disposal of dealing and investment properties. These have been charged against the £1m property provisions.

The £1m provisions, a provision of £5m of the amount at which the insurance subsidiaries are stated.

A note to the accounts shows that £55,800 was paid to directors on termination of their employment with a subsidiary.

Writing in the annual report

Sir James tells shareholders that the group is now concentrating on its more successful investment management and insurance divisions.

Plans for the early redemption and cancellation of the company's stock, the disposal of the Bank of England, of the banking subsidiary and the sale of the two most important properties to the banking arm have now been completed, he adds. Share and stockholders approved these schemes earlier this year.

Auditors, Arthur Young McClelland Moores, have again qualified the accounts with regard to the lack of an independent professional valuation of the property portfolio. They also query the directors' revaluation of the Unit Trust Management Contracts at £5m and the reduction by a provision of £5m of the amount at which the insurance subsidiaries are stated.

The rewards from the eight ships the group has on order for the Royal Navy and the Colbold, the recent brewing acquisition, will count in the future. These benefits will not show through this year and so 1977's profits will not match last year's record £12.73m pre-tax.

Ellerman's shipping division is at a crucial stage of converting from traditional methods of carriage to cellular container operation.

This is costly during the development stage when the group is investing in expensive new ships which do not begin to earn money until they are delivered and when it has to run transitional services.

British Land places stake in Bridgewater Est

It looks as if British Land is not going to make the bid for Bridgewater Estates, the Lancashire-based agricultural land and investment holding group, which some people in the market were expecting.

British Land said yesterday it had disposed of its holding of 449,200 ordinary shares, or about 16.6 per cent of the equity, in Bridgewater. These shares have been placed with institutions by Rowe & Pitman, Hurst-Brown at 259p per share. This makes the sale worth about £1.16m.

Last April, Bridgewater defeated a 200p-a-share cash offer from Rothschild Investment Trust. The following month, Rothschild sold its stake in Bridgewater, which was about 15.5 per cent, to British Land at 212p a share. Rothschild made a profit of £250,000 on the deal.

On Wednesday, Bridgewater's shares were quoted at a spread of 250p to 280p. In August it bought some 3,200 acres of farmland from the Stanley Estate at Thornhill, near Longridge, Preston. This was producing an income of about £50,000 p.a. The purchase price was £1.24m.

## When in Rome—or, of course, the Middle East...

A merchant banking friend recently told me a story about his newly appointed man in the Middle East. Soon after his arrival he was invited to an Arab picnic, the venue for which was to be in the desert 40 miles outside the capital.

Everybody travelled there in a caravan of black Mercedes cars, which eventually arrived at a sand dune at the side of the road where a stately pavilion had been erected, under which was a table-clothed, large number of cushions and enormous mounds of food. They all sat down and, as is the custom, started helping themselves with the right hand.

An experienced friend had advised him to thrust his hand deep into the middle of the mound because the food on the outside tended to be cold and covered in sand, having journeyed from the City by open truck. So duly plunging in up to the elbow and feeling around he suddenly encountered something that moved.

After a moment of total horror, he realized that he was in fact shaking hands with the person opposite. At a loss as to the correct protocol, under these circumstances, he was, however, kindly put at ease by his companion.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Scottish TV gets boost from local advertising

Scottish Television, the independent network serving central Scotland, reports a jump in pre-tax profits of nearly 66 per cent to £105m for the six months to June 30. This was after Exchequer levy of £900,000 against £752,000. Sales of advertising rose from £5.5m to £7.3m, while other income amounts to £201,000 compared with £106,000.

Mr Campbell Fraser, chairman, says: "The results show a satisfactory increase and reflect the continuing buoyancy of advertising revenue. The most gratifying aspect is that local advertising revenue has increased at double the national rate." But costs have also been rising with programme expenditure outstripping other costs. This was in line with its policy of giving priority to the service provided for viewers.

Generally, income during the summer maintained the rate of increase of the first half and the board expects the confident results for the full year will top last year's good figures.

## PETERBOROUGH MOTORS

Offer by T. C. Harrison now unconditional after acceptance by holders of 97 per cent of equity.

## HUNTING GIBSON

Pre-tax profit for six months to June 30 down from £1.5m to £604,000. Shipping depression continues, and no improvement is expected for rest of year.

## EXPRESS SERVICES

Profit of £24,500 turned into a loss of £69,000. Chairman is disappointed and rationalization is under way.

## PEACHEY PROPERTY

Valuation of company's properties will be completed shortly. Board expects the offer by Allied London Properties of 55p is totally inadequate.

## WOOD BASTOW HOLDINGS

Sales of Marks & Spencer still rising, but current year has not shown progress beyond looked for. Increased production planned later this year.

## BOURNE &amp; HOLLINGSWORTH

Drop in profit from £20,000 to £4,000 for first six months. "No indication of results for full year". Trade was affected by work on store.

## BELGRAVE ASSETS

Group is making a recommended offer for Louthian Investment Trust.

## BRITISH IND HOLDINGS

Chairman, Mr Joseph Green, is making an agreed offer for group through his Greenbrook Securities company. Terms: 29p cash a share.

## WILLIAM REED &amp; SONS

Group has purchased assets of Oland, a subsidiary of Rivington Carparts, which is under receiver, for £771,000.

## EATING BROTHERS

Company and the Savana Bank, propose to purchase 20 per cent interest in Baring Bank. Multinational presently held by London Multinational Bank.

## REO STAKIS

Group has purchased the four-star Victoria Hotel in Nottingham city centre for £645,000. It intends to spend a further £200,000 on the hotel.

## MAYNARDS

Chairman says sales for the first quarter of the present year show a satisfactory increase and demand continues to be high.

## Foreign Exchange

Firm for much of the day, the pound's recent good run was halted in later trading yesterday by a 9-point fall to \$1.558 after \$1.568 to early on. Effective sterling in the currency basket finally eased to 62.3 after 62.4 after being unchanged up to midday.

Small falls were registered against European currencies, but rates swung rather widely for a Friday, and reported medium-term Bank of England intervention—both ways.

Although generally anticipated, the 1 per cent cut in MLR caused a quickening in the pound's gradual decline, helped on its way by the wider differential interest rate gap arising from a series of United States prime increases, led by Citibank. Nevertheless, the

## Commodities

COPPER: Cash wire bars edged \$2.50 and three months \$2.52 ahead. Aluminum—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Zinc—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Nickel—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Tin—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Lead—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Silver—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Gold—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30.

COFFEE: Cash wire bars edged \$2.50 and three months \$2.52 ahead. Aluminum—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Zinc—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Nickel—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Tin—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Lead—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Silver—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30. Gold—Cash wire bars, \$290.50 to \$30.30; three months, \$290.50 to \$30.30.

## Wall Street

New York, Oct. 7.—Prices on the New York Stock Exchange closed lower in light trading, abandoning low-key early gain.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 1.73 points to 840.35, although it was up over a point early in the session.

Advances led by airlines, about 740 to about 590. Volume was 16,350,000 shares, down from 16,450,000 yesterday.

Brokers' relations with the Fed in part to the Federal Reserve report late Thursday of a continuing steep decline in the money supply.

A sharp earlier expansion prompted the Fed to tighten money policy, pushing short term interest rates higher.

However, a prime rate increase to 7 1/2 per cent from 7 1/4 per cent, spread through the nation's banking industry today after Citibank followed Wells Fargo's move.

The Fed indicated strongly in the money report that it was not relaxing credit policy. Dealers say it raised its target rate on key Fed funds from 6 1/2 per cent to at least 6 3/4 per cent.

Assessing the mid-day gain, was the news that the unemployment in September slipped to 6.9 per cent from 6.8 per cent in the previous month.

## Gold closes \$2.80 up

Chicago, Oct. 7.—Gold futures on the New York Commodity Exchange and on the Comex were \$1.80 to \$2.40 higher. On the Comex, gold futures for delivery in 1978 closed at \$1,100.00.

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## Authorized Units, Insurance &amp; Offshore Funds

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## Recent Issues

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## Spot Position of Sterling



## Guilts in retreat

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*Afore ye go*



## Weekend

Chess players can sharpen their skills by pitting them against an electronic rival called the Chess Challenger. This scientific opponent is hard to beat, but has been beaten and is far from being a mindless piece of equipment. On the highest "skill level" he considers his moves for anything up to half a minute, carefully considering the strategy and analysing the moves so far.

He is built into a chessboard, a normal, not-too-heavy board that is about 12 inches thick and about 12 by 8 inches long and wide with a laminated top to prevent spills falling into the precious innards although the makers would prefer that you avoid spilling coffee or wine anyway. He is fashionably brown and white, black and black being rather demodé in the computer world. His squares are numbered upwards and lettered across so that each

move is instantly and clearly identified on the keyboard at one side of the chessboard—it works rather like a map reference but is quicker to operate, being used like a calculator.

He can be used to set problems, to polish up openings and ends and to improve the game of even the most skillful players or of course one can play a complete game. He cannot cheat or make basic errors and he never talks through the game or distracts his opponent. So relax with him or get the chess adrenalin going to fight him.

Chess Challenger is made by Data Efficiency, a company specializing in computer accessories. There are two designs. One is the Starter, which is for those whose skills need tuition: that costs £150. The improved player can then upgrade his or her opponent by sending another £50 for the Master or, if confident about the game, can send off £200 right away for the Master, which has three

built-in "skill levels". At the lower level, you might expect to win about half the games and to wait only a couple of seconds while he considers then signals his move on the keyboard. The Master's top level may need to consider your move for up to half a minute before committing himself. The electronic board sells complete with traditional-style wooden chessmen which do have to be moved by hand and which do not sprint electronically or magnetically from square to square. You can buy it directly from Data Efficiency, Maxted Road, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7LE (tel. Hemel Hempstead 57137). There are leaflets, not extravagant but explanatory.

A natural for teaching and clubs' establishments, the Chess Challenger can also be a boon companion to the lonely, housebound or fanatic chess player who has a handy electricity plug and £200.

Time is Precious at Garrard of 112 Regent Street, the Crown Jewellers. And what a superb exhibition their display of timepieces under that name turns out to be. The Audemars Piguet watches are especially lovely and I particularly love the transparent watches—one of such watches, not by Audemars Piguet, has been featured on this page before. Here at Garrard you can see several and why not since Audemars Piguet prides itself on using the finest materials and the most skilled craftsmen. Thus, to see such quality of workmanship and materials is a delight. There is a marvellous one to wear as pendant or on the waist-chain, an 18-carat white gold pocket watch set with 69 diamonds weighing 1.9 carats. There are not only clocks and watches costly beyond most people's wildest extravaganzas, but many whose good value would surprise you.

When you go, give yourself time to wander around the emporium of jewelled, silver and gold beauty. Love the silver gilt pieces, the wine wagons and salt cellars of the early or middle nineteenth century. Gloat over the beautifully worked spoons or the salt cellars, each a work of art in itself, ornate with a mermaid and her mirror at the top of the handle. The place makes me long for an unlimited bank account and a home in which to set the precious possessions but in no-way makes me feel envious, only glad that such stores can still exist and that such treasures can still be bought, sold and admired for their beauty as well as the history locked into most pieces.

It had to come, the children's book club, and I am glad that it has. There is so little stimulus for junior schoolchildren and parents are often as much to blame for this particular kind of negligence as schools. The children are allowed comics but all too rarely encouraged to pick and choose for themselves, to consider and make their own decisions thus shaping their own tastes. The Skylark Children's Book Club is for seven to 10 year olds.

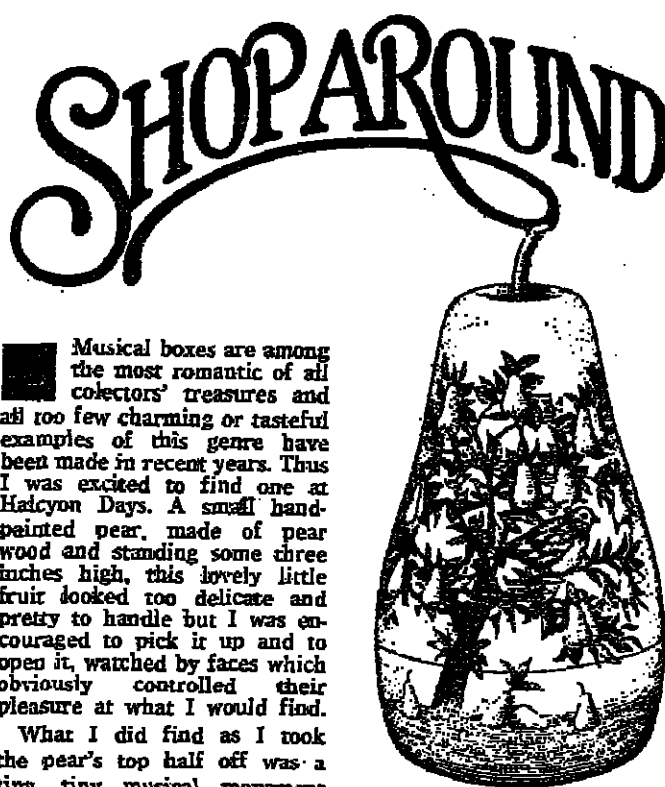
In the end, parents will probably pay for the books which will be offered on a monthly basis at £2.50 each plus 45p postage, etc, but children can build up their own contemporary libraries with pride just the same. Parents will be able to consider other books besides the set monthly book, all offered at good value prices. Members get a colourful magazine with their book of the month. The name is Skylark and this first issue has an interview with the young man who plays William, some make-it-yourself shelves for the books, a puzzle, recipe, football quiz, short story and features about cowboys. The first six books include a history, an encyclopedia, stories, and so on. All details from Skylark BCA, PO Box 19, Swindon, Wilt-

I found myself weaving all manner of romantic stories around a lady's travelling toilet set of Padoukwood, a wood I had never heard about but which looks rather like rosewood. Lined with green velvet, it holds everything a travelling lady could want like manicure and buttonhook implements, all with mother-of-pearl handles. The medicine spoon, the medicine beaker in protective leather case, the writing materials and the ink bottle—all inlaid with wood, and the perfume, lotion and ink bottles are in themselves enchanting pieces to see and to admire as they upon tray is removed to show the tray below of more necessities such as sewing instruments. What a possession for £7,000.

By the way, there is yet another wrist "instrument" combining watch and calculator. This one, besides digital watch and calculator, has an alarm, memory, 200-year calendar, timer-stopwatch and a masculine bracelet. It can be used to calculate the cost of a phone call, tell you the number of days to Christmas or between any other two dates, store a telephone number in its memory and alert one to the 4 pm appointment or the end of the meter's term. It can even be made to compute biorhythms. Yes, it does all the time accurately. See it at Garrard's exhibition as well as at a few other top retailers where it can be bought for £475 in stainless steel or £575 gold-plated. Winner, Hewlett Packard, King Street Lane, Wincoburn, Wokingham, Berks RG11 5AR. (Tel. Wokingham 784774).

shire SN1 5AX. The introductory offer is three books for £1 plus 80p postage/packing.

If you do not already know the magazine *Books for your Children*, perhaps it is time that you did. A well-arranged mixture of editorial with plenty of advertising gives you the best, as seen by the tireless editor, of all the books published for the young and very young. An inspired help for parents who live far from shops and, I feel, a basis for discussion with the potential reader for I am a great believer in encouraging every child, however young, to be in on the decision about what he or she should read. When the book is finished, the parents ought to discuss it with the child to help an individual and considered development of the child's taste, giving it self-confidence as well as the desire to read and enjoy more reading. This magazine is published by yet another children's book club with an initial offer of three for £1 plus 80p plus monthly offers and the address is Church Lane, Clifton Wood, Bristol. I need hardly say that children cannot enter into contracts and that this must in all cases be done by parents, other relatives or friends over 18.



Musical boxes are among the most romantic of all collectors' treasures and all too few charming or tasteful examples of this genre have been made in recent years. Thus I was excited to find one at Halcyon Days. A small hand-painted pear, made of pear wood, standing some three inches high, this lovely little box has a blue stippled background with an inscription to describe the occasion when the ballet was danced to the music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Inside the base are the opening bars of the dance of the cygnets inscribed beneath a thumbnail sketch of a pair of baller pumps. The box is 2 1/2 inches across and the price is £75—each of the 500 sells (many have sold already) with the usual certificate of authenticity.

In different vein but just as appealing in its own way is another box to recall the Wright Brothers biplane flight of 1903, 75 years ago. This box, with the drawings naturally on sky blue also honours early aviators like Santos Dumont (1906), Blériot (1909), Henri Farman (1908) and A. V. Roe (1909) whose name became, with the final "e" dropped from the surname, the name of the famous aircraft company.

Only 250 are being made to sell at £40 each. There is a shadow, sepia and black box to commemorate *Connaissance* magazine, some superb little boxes at £50 featuring shooting, sailing, fishing and hunting with some especially colourful scenes of the latter which rarely appear on pieces of this kind (£50). Sentimental posies on a quilted ground and a heap of other temptations are now in the little shop near Hanover Square and I know how many *Times* readers collect Susan Benjamin's enameled.

She has, as many others are beginning to have, painted stones an example of which is the little owl shown here—the paintings are on stones that remind the artist of the shape of the animal and there are fat cats, marmalade cats, grinning lions, cat with kittens, seal with baby seal and so on (from about £15/£18 upwards). The same artist paints on onyx, marble and some very unusual stone or valuable stone backgrounds from around £20 with the rare marbles working out at around £50. The wooden trinket and sewing stands are also perfectly done and, all in all, you will enjoy this little Aladdin's cave.

Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre in 1877. The box is decorated with scenes from the ballet, drawn by Shirley Curzon and delicately hand-coloured. In panels against eau-de-nil or hyacinth blue stippled backgrounds with an inscription to describe the occasion when the ballet was danced to the music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

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## Sheila Black

An unusual little paperback is *The Woodburning Book*, published by Broadleys, Widdington, Saffron Walden, Essex (Saffron Walden 40922). It is the first on a number of aspects of wood as an important fuel and costs £1 plus 10p postage. There is advice on storing wood properly and on managing a woodstove on your own land as well as collecting it from other land. I believe you should check the comment about common land as some village commons are still privately owned and, although people have a good many rights thereon, they may not have rights to pick up anything such as wood which belongs to the rightful owner, who often likes his common cleared of fallen wood in any case and would certainly give permission if asked.

More useful, and not expensive at £1 if you think how much it costs to write to all importers and makers for leaflets, is the brief "catalogue" of stoves advertised and featured therein. You may find many, many landowners only too willing to part with some elm logs as these trees fall prey to the dread disease. It is also worth asking friends with a lot of pine and fir trees about a possible overabundance of logs as these trees have to be periodically felled because they are shallow-rooting and can get dangerous as they age.

Sadly, there is often more wood to be picked up in towns and cities than can be burned in homes in these—possibly a smokeless zones. In London,

Birmingham and Liverpool I have noticed, on recent dashes in a car from here to there, that the streets are as full of rubbish skips as ever during the property boom and most of them bulge with doors, door and window frames and odd bits of wood. I gather and board them, giving them to country visitors or even taking them down as gifts when I go out there. Most of the heavier beams, rafters and joists need sawing into shorter lengths, it is true, but I go round their girths with an electric Black & Decker saw and the middle is easily and quickly finished off. The old, seasoned wood burns slowly and gives great heat. Not beautiful but you can always keep the coal and the eye-catching logs for when you are there and burn the uglies in your absence or when the suitable wood-stove is closed. Builders welcome help with disposing of the rubbish.

There are other useful "fiery" paperbacks. *Stove Book* is a feast for the eyes rather than a practical catalogue but it is that too since some of the lovely pieces featured are on sale today while others give you ideas if you do go hunting old stoves to be cleaned and restored. A bit of a luxury at £2.95 but a very glossy, pleasing luxury. Published by Matthews Miller, Dunbar, 51 Endell Street, London, WC2 9 AJ. My one objection to it is to make my mouth water for a stove when I have a lovely warm open fireplace anyway.

A couple of very good and highly professional do-it-yourself types, who have done a certain amount of commercial

carpentry, plumbing and tiling were very impressed by *Home Heating and Fireplace Book*, a do-it-yourself paperback guide to putting in your own fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. The book is packed with the tips and advice which anyone tackling the job would need and, since installation adds so much to the cost, a stove or fireplace, the book can be worth buying. In any case, if you can and do tackle the job yourself, you can be the fireplace of your choice even at substantial extra to above the one you feel ought to be affording. The book is £1.75 at the Building Centre in London's Store Street, direct from Stanley Paul & Co, 3 Fitzroy Square, London W.1.

Finally there is yet another of the long, long sequence of books about home-making—the time *Home-Making on a Budget* by Jo Hatcher. It is a parent, friendly, warmly written and full of hints which are second-nature to wartime housewives but which may be new to moderns. It is one of some new books called *Practical* and the name makes it a pleasure to buy at least one. Other titles include *The Economy Kitchen* by Piers Smith, *Fun with a Shoestring* by Penny Muter and *House and Garden Maintenance* by A. C. Limon. Each book has 9 pages and is plentifully illustrated. They will be selling at £1.25 each from October 20 on unless your bookseller can get your requirements from the publishers. Publishers: Wellingborough, Northants.

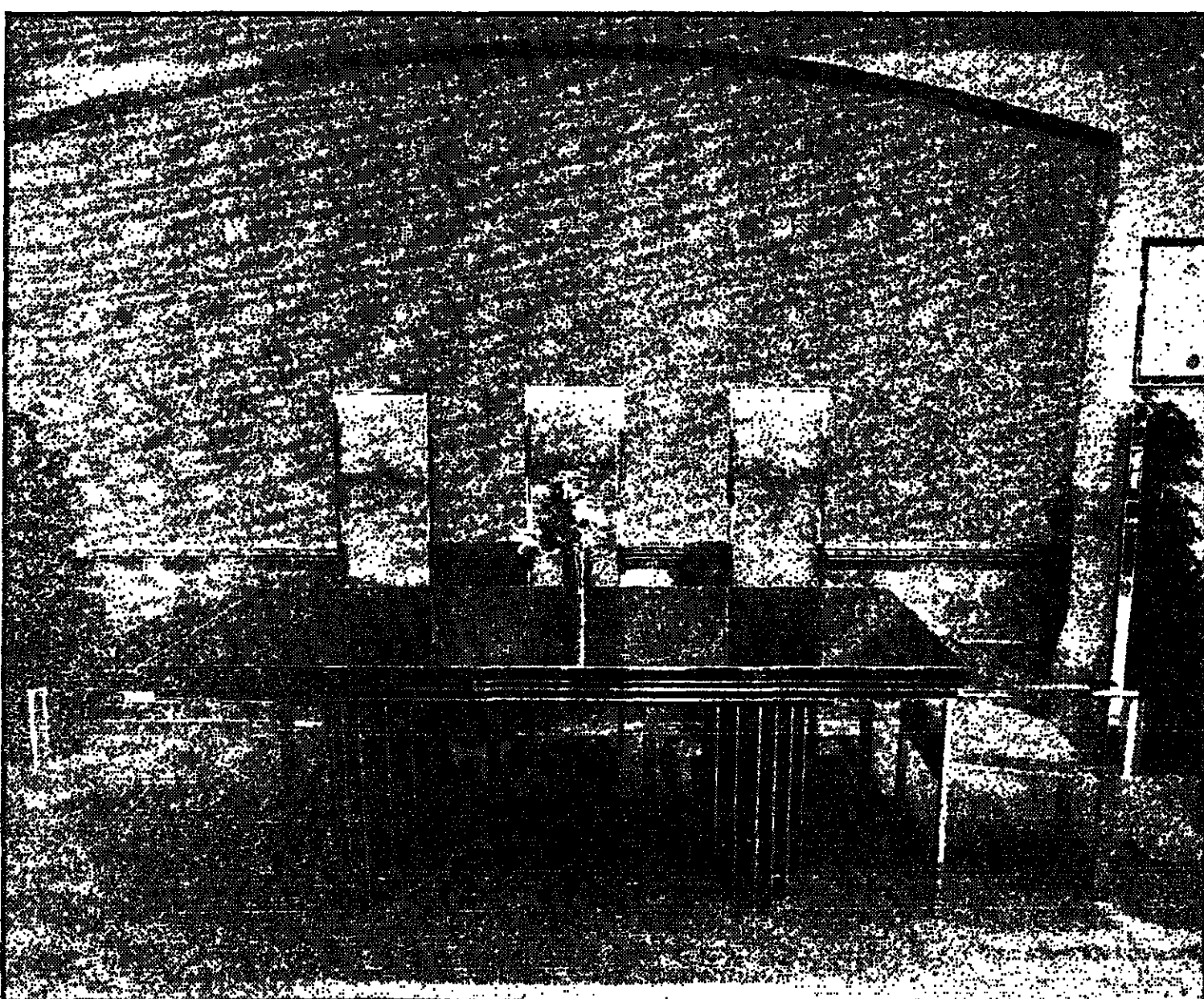
The Lux soap company have made up and are giving patterns for sewing dainty accessories like bath caps with frilled edges like mob caps; bath pillows also with frilled edges; tissue box cover with no frills but with diagonal bands to hold the shape; and a little drawstring cosmetic or whatnot bag. For the illustrated instruction sheets write to Lux Beauty Soap, 114 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9AB, and get out your prettiest fabrics to make presents for you and your friends.

Designers Guild, the mecca of pretty fabrics along with Laura Ashley and Liberty or John Lewis branches, is selling off thousands of metres of fabrics at anything from £1 to £2.50 a metre instead of £5 to £8.50 a metre. The pricing is only marginally imperfect for their high standards. Wallpaper, for the same reason that the colours do not exactly match, is at £1.50 a roll and there are also real bargains in furniture which has been less popular than it ought to have been during the past year so that corner units, usually £600, are now £300. Designers Guild is at 277 King's Road, London SW3 5EN. The sale starts on October 10 and you can telephone 01-351 1271 for all details.

I hear that children are delighted with bedspreads that are painted and flattened Rolls-Royce's with that famous radiator over the bed's foot and the studded bonnet along the bed so that the steering wheel is right under the child's hands. They cost £13.95 at Harrods and I do think parents ought to remember that such crazes do not last for ever and that they are hardly decorative, only amusing. Red, yellow or green.

W. H. Smith is offering some Christmas gift bargains from and including October 11 to October 31. You will get 55 off the *Scaldrick* sets which will come down to £18.95 off normal recommended retail prices. The popular Hornby train set will be down by £3 to £11.50 and you can get £4.25 off the *Petite* typewriter which really does work, absorbs children of a wide age group will sell at £10.50 (do remember to get extra ribbons as they are very hard to find after Christmas when games are cleared from the shelves and have to be ordered then). Monopoly (£2 cheaper at £2.55). Othello (down from £4.25 to £2.89), and Mastermind

(now down 40p at 65p) are among the all-time games in this special Christmas sale but there are newer, less familiar games as well as the spy games like *Microdot*, the horror games like *Dracula* and *Hangman*. You have just 20 days to go budget shopping before Smith's mark off the prices again. I am not saying that you will not see the same electric and non-electric games and toys more cheaply or for the same price elsewhere and I know there are some real toys and games bargains at the Debenhams stores. But I am recommending these as good bargains if you do not want to trail further than your local WHS.



The style of ROR, which stands for Ringo or Robin, is so highly individual, so chic and so very modern-elegant that there are few other stockists although ROR may be able to tell you of some. It has its devotees, this chrome, glass, smoke glass table range, and I can assure you that their upholstery, richly covered or simply done, is really comfortable and practical at the same time.

Their customers make the pilgrimage to 143 Grosvenor Road, London, SW1, with a definite excitement. At this address, on the embankment near what is always called the Hovis Bridge but is actually the Vauxhall Bridge, is Francis Wharf, conveniently near side streets

with meters and opposite a small car park. Francis Wharf is a village of ateliers, building shops, and trade emporiums which attract architects. You climb the steep wooden stairs to ROR and you come into a large cool hall which was once a warehouse floor. At first the hall seems packed with the smoky tables that are at once familiar yet always arrestingly new. Tables with backgammon or chess printed on the glass; tables round, square or rectangular. Gradually the browns, beiges and muted colours of plain or patterned upholstery become positive as you sit in one. I found that you sit in many and that all are comfortable, whether high, which is ideal for so many who cannot

get in and out of low chairs, or low for loungers.

Then you start talking about the furniture and examining it and you discover that everything is as practical as it can be, of durable man-made materials designed with love and experience and made by craftsmen with traditional skills. Whatever you look at is original.

Ringo Starr (of the Beatles) and Robin Cruikshank have been designing furniture together for seven years and I knew of Robin's designing ways many years before 1970. Ringo brought his upholstery knowledge and experience from pre-musician days, along with utterly refreshing ideas and an original approach to complement Robin's training

in art school and with Terence Conran. They make a good pair.

Here you see chairs combining state-of-the-art and dignity with total modernity. The curved backs of stainless steel look like mirror steel which is the only description although there is actually no such thing. The upholstery is firm but welcoming. The dining suite is majestic and imposing with tall, tall chair backs against which you can lean your head as you listen to raconteurs or tell your own tales. The long table stands on supports which are in themselves pieces of sculptured engineering and deserve no name as banal as legs. They are well away from dinner's knees and give no obstruction—a typical ROR approach.

There is also a terrific occasional table, low and honey-warm with a bronze-glass top on an angled pillar of mirror stainless steel. It goes well with deep, square armchairs with thick arms that make you long to stay between them. I love City Sticker desks for tidy executives, glassy and clear, as well as durable, comfortable settees and spacious shelving units.

They make anything a customer wants—well, almost anything because their own flair will add so much to what a customer thinks he wants that he will find himself adjusting happily.

As a price example, the chair in this photograph is from about £176 upwards (fabric extra) but it is hard to give

prices as their stuff is so individual and the choice of fabrics and finishes can make such a difference. The fair description is that their furniture is in the higher price brackets but is, on inspection and understanding, good value and less shocking than you might think or expect. You can go there just for pleasure and for ideas but, if you go to buy, have a healthy bank balance, an open mind and a really positive penchant for modern elegance. The telephone number is 01-821 9486 and they have leaflets for those with serious intentions but I would still suggest a personal reconnaissance during which you will learn much and change any preconceived ideas.







